

Iran seals reconciliation with Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iran has raised the flag over its embassy in Baghdad, setting the seal after eight years of war on a reconciliation hastened by the Gulf crisis.

Iran and Iraq, whose eight-year conflict ended with a ceasefire in August 1988, severed diplomatic links in 1987.

But Iraq and Iran agreed on Aug. 15 to make permanent peace 13 days after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait.

The decision paved the way for a formal peace treaty in the war. Iranian officials have spoken of an imminent visit to Tehran by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Iranian embassy opened after the two countries resumed direct diplomatic relations Oct. 14.

The mission is headed by Charge d'Affaires Abolghasem Sba'shaei, who referred to "the strong ties linking the Iraqi and Iranian Islamic peoples" during a flag-raising ceremony on Sunday. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Sba'shaei as saying the move was aimed at "expanding

the fruitful cooperation between the two neighbouring countries in the interest of the Islamic Nation and to coordinate resistance against any aggression on its holy places and security."

This was a reference to the U.S.-led buildup of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia.

The rapprochement with Tehran raised fears in the West that Iran might side with Iraq in the event of war in the Gulf.

Iran has condemned the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and says it is applying U.N. sanctions. But it has also called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi embassy in Tehran opened last week.

Iraq has withdrawn its troops from Iranian border territory. But differences remain over an exchange of tens of thousands of prisoners of war (POWs).

A senior Iranian official urged Baghdad on Monday to show goodwill and release former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, captured during the war.

Mohammad Ali Nazaran, in charge of a commission dealing with prisoners of war, also called for the release of several thousand unregistered Iranian POWs he said were still in Iraq.

Iran said last week it would soon resume exchanging prisoners with Iraq after a month-long halt.

Each country has freed about 35,000 prisoners so far. Before the exchange began, Iraq had about 50,000 POWs registered in Iran while Tehran put the number of its captives in Iraq at 55,000.

Baghdad says only those POWs jailed or awaiting trial, or those who do not want to return home, remain in Iraq.

In another development, Iraq, responding to a request from Iran, appears to have expelled members of a major Iranian opposition group, U.S. officials say.

Members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq of Iran have apparently started leaving Iraq for Paris and other European sites, said the

officials who spoke to the AP on only condition of anonymity. The dissident group is the largest trying to overthrow the clerical government in Tehran.

However, the assessment from the U.S. officials was strongly challenged by Mujahadeen spokesman Farid Soleimani, who telephoned news agencies to insist that his group remained intact in Baghdad and elsewhere.

"The sense is that with this new understanding between Iran and Iraq, an organisation like that is not welcome there any more," said a U.S. administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iran reported several times last month that Massoud Rajavi, the Mujahadeen's Baghdad-based leader, had asked his people to leave Iraq and was himself leaving for Germany.

The Mujahadeen also have denied the reports. But rebel representatives in the United States, who used to bombard reporters, have all but disappeared in recent weeks.

Qadhafi sets deadline for end to Sudan revolt

KHARTOUM (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has renewed his call for unity among his country, Egypt and Sudan and gave southern Sudanese rebels a year to end their revolt or he would join the fighting against them.

Qadhafi made the remarks Sunday in a speech to the closing session of a Sudanese government-sponsored conference that recommended a Libyan-style peoples' congresses as a future political system in Sudan. The speech was nationally televised live.

He said the three countries possess all elements of unity and should therefore not hesitate in setting up unity.

Qadhafi arrived here Saturday to join Sudan's military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir in attending the closing session of the national dialogue conference, which has been debating the political future of this country since Aug. 6.

The 1,000-member conference has recommended that Sudan follow Libya's "Jamahiriya" political system. The word means "republic of the masses" and connotes a system supposedly ruled directly by people's congresses instead of through elected representatives.

"Sudan, Egypt and Libya constitute the heart, the main body of the Arab Nation, the movement of which control the movement of the other Arab states," he said to a jubilant audience.

Egypt, which adopts a parliamentary system, has rebuffed Qadhafi's earlier calls for unity. It is expected to continue to oppose the idea.

Qadhafi seemed extremely inebriated over the conference recommendation. He scoffed at the parliamentary, partisan and government systems, saying that all those have become obsolete and have given way to his jamahiriya. In the jamahiriya system, he

said, the people run their own affairs all by themselves through their people's committees and congresses.

He said that now Sudan has adopted a Libyan-style form of government, Sudanese rebel leader John Garang should end his rebellion.

Qadhafi said Garang was a member of the Libyan-based International Revolutionary Organisation and promised to try to persuade him to end his rebellion now that a jamahiriya system would be established in Sudan.

But if by Oct. 21 next year Garang has not joined the Sudanese masses, then "we will have no option but to stand by the Sudanese people and government against Garang," Qadhafi warned.

The mostly Christian and animist rebels took up arms in 1983 to demand greater autonomy, economic and political reforms from the Muslim-dominated central government in Khartoum.

Qadhafi admitted that Libya had trained and armed Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army but stopped its military assistance after the ouster of Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri five years ago.

Libya has had close relations with Sudan, its neighbour to the southeast, since a 1985 popular uprising overthrew Numeiri. The friendship has endured three governments: A transitional military regime that ruled for a year after Numeiri; an ineffectual and squabbling civilian government, which held power for three years; and Bashir's junta, which took power in a coup June 30 last year.

After the coup, Bashir disbanded and banned political parties and dismissed the elected parliament. Since then, he has been trying to come up with a future political system for Sudan that allegedly will ensure popular participation in decision-making.

Iraqis deny taking medical equipment

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — A senior Iraqi official has dismissed U.S. President George Bush's claims that Iraq had taken medical equipment from hospitals in Kuwait as "baseless and ridiculous lies."

Abdul Jabbar Abdul Ahbas, the Iraqi official in charge of hospitals in Kuwait which Iraq calls its 19th province, told reporters that no medical equipment had been taken from hospitals in Kuwait and that normal services continue at health institutions in the emirate.

Abdul Ahbas, a physician who heads Baghdad's health department, told reporters visiting the main maternity hospital in Kuwait: "Although medical

equipment exceeds by far the needs of the population, we did not move any of them to other places."

The reporters were flown to Kuwait Sunday by the Iraqi Information Ministry.

The Iraqi manager of the maternity hospital, Qais Abdul Sattar, said the 500-bed hospital is still providing services including health care to prematurely born babies who need to be kept in incubators.

The United States and the toppled government of Kuwait claim that Iraq has moved medical equipment to Iraq including a large number of incubators causing the death of several Kuwaiti babies.

Abdul Sattar showed reporters 12 babies in incubators in the main intensive care unit of the hospital which is still manned mostly by Asian and non-Kuwaiti Arab medical staff.

"Why should we send incubators to our maternity hospitals in Iraq? We have plenty of them there," said Abdul Sattar.

Reporters also visited Al Razi Hospital for bone disease in downtown Kuwait where about 30 patients were being treated in the luxurious 295-bed hospital built by the royal family in 1984.

Kamal Mustafa, an Egyptian specialist in bone surgery, said most of the patients are suffering from injuries incurred in industrial accidents.

Iraq says cars with Kuwait plates cannot get petrol

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq says drivers with Kuwaiti licence plates will not get petrol when rationing starts Tuesday unless they re-register their vehicles as Iraqi.

Newspapers Monday quoted Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi as saying foreigners in Iraq would also have to prove they had a valid reason for having cars if they wanted petrol coupons.

Private motorists will be limited to 30 litres (6.6 gallons) of petrol a week and five litres (1.1 gallons) of lubricating oil a month.

"As for those vehicles with Kuwait plates they will not be given coupons before changing their plates to Iraqi ones," the English-language Baghdad Observer quoted Chalabi as saying.

Iraq has sought to remove all symbols of a separate Kuwait since it declared the emirate its 19th province.

Chalabi said foreign diplomatic missions in Iraq and drivers of foreign-registered cars entering from Jordan would get special petrol ration coupons.

But he said drivers of cars with green plates used to denote that they belonged to foreign companies in Iraq would have to produce a legal document to prove they still needed vehicles.

Many of the hundreds of Western and Japanese men prevented from leaving Iraq worked in the country on contracts which have expired.

Long queues of cars jammed petrol stations for a fourth day Monday as motorists rushed to fill up before rationing.

Iraq, with the world's second largest proven oil reserves, announced rationing last Friday. It blamed a shortage of the imported chemicals and additives it needs to refine crude into petrol and lubricants.

It has vowed that U.N. sanctions will not force it into withdrawing from Kuwait. But ordinary Iraqis say petrol rationing will have a big impact on life.

Private cars and taxis, which will get double rations, are the main transport in Baghdad and other cities in the absence of an efficient bus system.

Japan to reassure Asians on plan to send troops abroad

TOKYO (R) — Japan should reassure its Asian neighbours that its plan to send troops to the Gulf does not mean a return to its militarist past, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told parliament Monday.

"I presume government officials of Asian countries are closely watching our parliamentary deliberation of the United Nations cooperation law," Nakayama told the Upper House budget committee.

The law was conceived to enable Japan to contribute to the multinational force in the Gulf designed to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

"Since Asian neighbours suffered very much during the World War II, the Japanese government must explain this draft legislation so that Japan may win their full understanding," Nakayama told an opposition questioner.

He said the "U.N. peace corps" would only be sent abroad on the basis of a United Nations resolution calling for troops to safeguard international peace and security and to cooperate in peace-keeping operations.

Brushing aside his reply, Socialist Osamu Yatabe said: "It is not from a lack of explanation that (Asian countries) have expressed concern. Looking at the essence (of the Japanese plan), Asian people are worried about it."

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said: "If our explanation is understood, it is not justified to say that Japan intends to become a military power."

The prospect of Japan's first overseas military deployment since World War II has drawn criticism from China, South Korea and other Asian nations.

"Japan's militarism started a war of aggression which brought great disaster to the people of China and Asia. It is still fresh in people's memories," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement Saturday.

Japanese Socialist, Communists and other opposition parties have denounced the plan as a violation of the U.S.-drafted constitution which bans Tokyo from waging war as a means of settling international conflicts.

On Sunday, about 23,000 people formed a human ring around a U.S. air base in the western outskirts of Tokyo in protest at the government's plan.

Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Socialist Party, told the gathering: "We must oppose the government's move to send troops abroad under the attractive name of peace."

A similar Communist-organised rally was held at a central Tokyo park.

Under the proposed law, Kaifu plans to send the corps, including units of the Japanese armed forces, to the Gulf in a non-combat support operation.

He told the Upper House committee that the corps should in principle be unarmed.

But foreign and defence officials told the committee that its members could carry rifles and pistols while supply ships should have machine guns and shotguns for self-protection.

Chamoun assassination one of many in bloody Lebanon

By Nick Ludington
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — The killing of Christian leader Dany Chamoun is the latest in a long line of political assassinations in bloody Lebanon. Many leaders have been slain, but none of the cases ever officially solved.

Christians, who have been busily fighting each other as well as the Muslims, have suffered most in the civil strife that began in 1975.

Chamoun died Sunday when five gunmen burst into an apartment outside Beirut and shot him, his wife and two small sons. An 11-month-old girl survived.

Chamoun, a Maronite Catholic and the son of late President Camille Chamoun, was one of the most outspoken critics of President Elias Hrawi and Syria's military presence in Lebanon.

He also was at odds with Christian warlord Samir Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces militia fought a four-month war with rival Christian troops earlier this year for mastery of Lebanon's Christian enclave.

Camille Chamoun died a natural death in August 1987. But he narrowly escaped assassination in 1980 and 1987 when remote-controlled bombs detonated near his car, wounding him both times.

On June 13, 1978, Christian fighters loyal to Bashir Gemayel killed Tony Frangieh, son and political heir of Suleiman Frangieh, Lebanon's president from 1970-76. Frangieh's wife and three

year-old daughter were also killed.

Gemayel later admitted his men were involved but said they had no authorisation to kill Frangieh, who led a rival militia to Gemayel's.

Four years later, Gemayel would be killed, at age 34. Three weeks after his election as president on Aug. 23, 1982, a powerful bomb blast tore through the headquarters of his Falange party, the leading Maronite Christian group.

Rene Mouawad, head of an important Christian clan in northern Lebanon, did not even last as long as Gemayel as president. He was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1989, by a remote-control bomb, 17 days after his election.

He was succeeded by current President Elias Hrawi.

Geagea himself has survived several assassination attempts.

And Muslim factions have also seen their chieftains killed.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the leading Sunni Muslim leader in Lebanon, was killed June 1, 1987, when a bomb exploded aboard an army helicopter in which he was riding.

Exemplifying the problem facing all investigators into the assassinations amid the anarchy of civil war, Attorney General Mounif Owaidat said he would resign as special investigator into Karami's death as soon as he "faced obstacles." He quit two weeks later.

Current Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss also has tasted the threat. Hoss, a promi-

ent Sunni Muslim, was education minister in 1984 when a bomb exploded as he drove to a mosque, wounding him with shrapnel.

Lebanon's largest religious group, the Shi'ites, lost their leader Musa Sadr, a prominent cleric who founded the Shi'ite militia Amal. He vanished in 1978 on a trip to Libya whose leader Muammar Qadhafi backed the rival Muslim Sunnis. Sadr was presumed killed.

Kamal Jumblatt, a prominent leftist and chief of Lebanon's Druze sect, which fields one of Lebanon's toughest militias, was machine-gunned to death in a March 1977 ambush.

His son and successor Walid survives uneasily. In June 1987 he was asked an aide to open a gift packed ostensibly containing a pen. It exploded, blowing the aide's hands off.

Prominent foreigners have fallen in the spate of assassinations, including American and French ambassadors. Malcolm Kerr, president of Lebanon's top educational institution, the American University of Beirut, was shot to death in a hallway outside his office in January, 1984.

Top journalists have been gunned down. The right, writing hand of Selim Lawzi, publisher of the prominent weekly Al Hawadess (Events), was skinned off before or after he was shot to death in March, 1980. Riad Taha, Shi'ite Muslim chairman of Lebanon's press syndicate, was shot to death four months later.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

De Klerk arrives in Morocco

RABAT (R) — South African President F.W. De Klerk arrived in Morocco Monday en route to Europe, in his first visit to an Islamic country. "We have come from the southern tip of Africa to the northern tip. We belong to the same continent... we are leading countries in this continent and have joint responsibilities," he told reporters. De Klerk was to be received by King Hassan and give a news conference before flying Tuesday to the Netherlands and Luxembourg, officials said.

Dutch frigate rescues Iranian seamen

THE HAGUE (R) — A Dutch frigate operating with Western forces in the Gulf rescued eight Iranians after their boat was hit by an unidentified ship, a Dutch marine spokesman said Monday. The Iranians were found Sunday clinging to driftwood near the Strait of Hormuz. Their 15-metre long boat was carrying fruit to Dubai when it was hit. The crew on a Panamanian tanker spotted the Iranians and alerted the Dutch frigate, Witte de With. "They were rescued in a rubber boat and taken to Mina Saor in the United Arab Emirates," the spokesman said.

Strong quake strikes northern Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A strong earthquake jolted the town of Roudbar in northern Iran Monday morning and also caused panic in the provincial capital of Rasht, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. The geophysics institute of Tehran University said the quake, at 7:20 a.m. (0350 GMT) measured 5.2 degrees on the Richter scale and had an epicentre 200 kilometers in Gilan province northwest of Tehran, the news agency reported. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, it said.

Sudan frees BBC-Reuters correspondent

NICOSIA (R) — Sudan's military government has freed part-time Reuters correspondent Alfred Taban after more than six months in detention. Taban, 33, a Sudanese who also works for the British Broadcasting Corporation, said he was not questioned during his detention at Khartoum's Kobor prison and the authorities gave no explanation for his arrest on March 31. He was freed Friday. In a letter to Reuters in Nicosia, Taban said he had been required to sign an undertaking not to be involved in any activity against the junta of General Omar Hassan Al Bashir which took power in a June, 1989 coup. He said he was also instructed to notify the authorities if he wished to travel outside Khartoum. Taban was released with nine others who had also been held at Kobor. They included two Khartoum University professors, four doctors, an engineer and two Ministry of Culture officials. Taban, from the southern Sudanese town of Kajjo Kaji, is also a senior editor of the English-language Khartoum monthly Sudanour. Earlier this year, Sudanese authorities briefly detained two other correspondents — Egyptian Hamza Hendawi, of Reuters, and Nairobi-based Julian Ozone, a Briton who reports for London's Financial Times and the Sunday Correspondent.

Four sentenced to death in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian military court has sentenced four men to be hanged for killing a soldier and wounding another in a knife attack in Alexandria. Military Prosecutor Major General Mohamed Abdullah said the four men, aged between 20 and 54, stabbed Private Yasser Bahgat Mohammad 22 times. His companion Private Nagi Anwar was stabbed in the stomach and back in the Oct. 11 attack. The attackers were professional criminals and had no connection to any political group inside or outside the country, MENA said.

Turkey expects stranded Vietnamese

ANKARA (R) — More than 1,000 Vietnamese stranded in Iraq are likely to enter Turkey this week and fly home after Ankara dropped its refusal to admit them. "We expect about 1,100 Vietnamese to cross through the Habur border gate Monday and Tuesday," a foreign ministry spokesman said Monday. "We do not know if they will be followed by others. If they come of course we will take them." In Hanoi, a Western aid worker quoted the government as saying 1,094 of 16,000 Vietnamese stranded in Iraq would be airlifted home from Turkey Wednesday and Thursday.

Iran, Soviet republic to arrange tours

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and the neighbouring Soviet Republic of Turkmenia have agreed to arrange cross-border pilgrimages and sightseeing tours, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. It quoted the deputy governor-general of Iran's northeastern province of Khorasan, Mohammadi Zadeh, as saying the agreement would "help establish friendly relations between people living on both sides of the Iran-Turkmenia border who share a common cultural-religious heritage."

Bulgaria sends delegation to Iraq

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarian Vice-President Atanas Semerjiev flew to Baghdad Monday at the head of an all-party delegation for talks on the release of nearly 700 Bulgarians trapped in Iraq. Bulgarian radio said Semerjiev would hold talks "at the highest level," on the return of the 694 Bulgarians in the country, indicating he would meet Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The delegation included Finance Minister Belcho Belchev and Stoyan Ganeva, spokesman for the opposition Union of Democratic Forces. Bulgaria has supported the United Nations sanctions imposed against Iraq.

Pilot killed in UAE air crash

ABU DHABI (AP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) air force jet has crashed during routine exercises, killing the pilot, the official UAE news agency WAM reported. The accident involving a British-made Hawk trainer jet occurred Sunday morning, the agency said. "The plane crashed... and its pilot was martyred," said the agency without providing detail on how the accident occurred. It identified the pilot as Mohammad Ali Baljafieh, 24.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
16:55 Arabic series
17:30 Programme review
17:40 Local programme
17:50 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Sciencetalks
18:10 L'ecole des fans
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:35 News in Arabic
20:30 "Zimbabwe"
21:00 Local programme
21:30 French film
22:00 News in English
22:30 French film continued

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swellish Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632783, 683326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Nova Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 659932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with expected scattered showers, especially in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom. In Aqaba, it will be hazy

and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 16 / 28
Aqaba 21 / 34
Deserts 15 / 27
Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hafez Khawaja 791954
Dr. Wa'd Dumali 774800
Dr. Ahmad Al Daga 676473
Dr. Walid Salawach 779997
Firas pharmacy 661912
Al Asana pharmacy 783336
Nairoukh pharmacy 637672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 649495
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Abu Bakir (—)
Al Shuraa' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Jihad Mushah (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 634302
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 625800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television

Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 06-53200
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munasher Hospital 672219
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Munasher 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marjeh 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)98323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sina Hospital (09)986732

Home News

Jordan bars entry to all goods to Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — No truck laden with any kind of product has entered Iraq from Jordan since early Saturday when Jordan reinforced its adherence to the United Nations sanctions against Iraq to include food and medicine, and only empty vehicles, which will bring back expatriates' belongings, are being allowed to cross the northeastern border post at Al Rawashed, officials said Monday.

"The border security forces are under strict orders not to allow any kind of goods, including food and medicine, to cross the Jordanian border into Iraq," said a senior source at the Public Security Department (PSD). "Empty trucks with authorisation to bring back Jordanian expatriates' household goods and other personal effects are allowed to pass," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

An official at the Ministry of Finance and Customs said the ban on goods entering Iraq through Jordanian territory or vice-versa was in place since early August when the Security Council adopted Resolution 661 imposing a trade embargo against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2. "It is not a 'fresh order'," said the official, "except that the authorities have been instructed to include food and medicine consignments in the ban."

"Another exception is oil from Iraq," the official noted. "We have informed the United Nations that Jordan has no choice but to procure Iraqi oil partly because Iraq is repaying its debts to Jordan in oil and partly because the two countries have a special pricing deal."

The official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, confirmed that several truckloads of food and medicines had been allowed into Iraq until early October, when sudden questions were asked whether Resolution 661 allowed such shipments to Iraq.

Last week the government announced a convoy of food and medicines contributed by the Jordanian public to Iraq and said the shipment would be cleared for passage only after clarification from the Security Council Sanctions Committee over Resolution 661. At least two shipments of medicines manufactured in Jordan were turned back from the border last week.

Clause C of Resolution 661 calls on United Nations member states to ban the "sale or supply by their nationals or from their territories or using their flag vessels of any commodities or products, including weapons or any other military equipment, whether or not originating in their territories but not including supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs, to any person or body for the purposes of any business carried on in or operated from Iraq or Kuwait, any activity by their nationals or in their territories which promote or are calculated to promote

such sale, or supply or use of such commodities or products."

According to an expert in international law, "there is no ambiguity in the resolution that food and medicine could be sent into Iraq." But, he added, the "crux of the matter is that it should be established that there is indeed a situation which warrants external humanitarian assistance before an external party can send in such goods."

"Apparently, the Americans are not willing to acknowledge that there is any shortage of milk and food in Iraq which warrants a definition of 'humanitarian circumstances' as cited in Resolution 661," added the expert.

"Until now, Jordan did not include food and medicine in its ban order," said a leading businessman. "But instances of such shipments, including the charity convoy of food and milk, were used by some, including the Americans, at the Security Council, to argue that Jordan was not abiding by the sanctions against Iraq when it actually came to discussing compensation for Jordan," he asserted. "It is not simply a question of an embargo against Iraq but also political pressure on Jordan."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said recently that Jordan was being "penalised by Saudi Arabia and the West" despite the Kingdom's strict adherence to the U.N. sanctions.

"Jordan is pushed into the Iraqi camp, into an extremist frame of mind," he said. Although Jordan has secured pledges totalling about \$400 million from West Germany and Japan to compensate for the Kingdom's losses resulting from the Gulf crisis and sanctions against Iraq, no assistance has actually been received.

The Japanese ambassador, Tadayuki Nakayama, said Monday that he could not give any specific timeframe for Tokyo to deliver \$100 million in soft loans promised to Jordan by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu earlier this month. "We are working hard to get the money to Amman," the ambassador told the Jordan Times. He rejected as baseless reports that Japan was deliberately delaying the assistance to Jordan. Kaifu also promised another \$150 million in two packages, under stricter terms, but no specifics on these have yet been discussed, according to the ambassador.

A West German source said earlier this week that there was no change in Bonn's commitment of \$130 million in assistance to Jordan. The assistance should have reached Jordan by mid-October but "was delayed pending parliamentary approval," the source said. "The amount is not part of the actual government budget and therefore it needs parliament endorsement," the source explained. "We hope it will be coming soon."

Jean Ripert, a special envoy of the United Nations secretary-general, said after a visit to Jordan and assessment of the Kingdom's economic situation that Amman needed immediate financial assistance rather than pledges. "Jordan needs aid today, not tomorrow," he said.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday holds talks with Mohammad Abdullah Nour, a UNDP envoy (Petra photo)

U.N. envoy on a visit to assess the Kingdom's aid requirements

Jordan appeals to the world to honour aid pledge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday issued an appeal to the United Nations and the rich industrialised nations to come to its aid and to offer the Kingdom fair compensation for the damage inflicted on its economy.

The appeal was made by Prime Minister Mudar Badran at a meeting with a senior United Nations official who is currently on a visit to Jordan to assess the Kingdom's aid requirements, and the economic damage caused by applying sanctions against Iraq and providing assistance to tens of thousands of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq.

"Jordan has been subjected to huge losses and damages to its economy as a result of the Gulf crisis, the imposition of U.N. sanctions against Iraq and the influx of the evacuees," Badran told the U.N. envoy, Mohammad Abdullah Nour.

"As a result of implementing Security Council Resolutions 661 and 667, Jordan sustained economic losses which adversely affected all the nation's sectors and its industry, trade, transport and tourism most," the prime minister said at the meeting.

The prime minister said that the emergency services offered to

800,000 evacuees by the Jordanian government had severely damaged the Kingdom's water resources and caused heavy damage to the Kingdom's road network. In addition, the prime minister said, the government had spent \$50 million on food and health care for the evacuees.

"Jordan was striving to overcome its economic problems when the Gulf crisis broke out causing the country to lose another \$8 billion in expatriates' remittances, and the country is now faced with the problem of 120,000 citizens who lost their jobs and their savings in the Gulf and had to return home," Badran pointed out.

Nour told the prime minister that his mission here was complementary to that started by U.N. special envoy Jean Ripert earlier this month. Ripert issued an appeal to the international community to provide urgent assistance to Jordan to help the country continue with its humanitarian assistance to the evacuees.

Nour said that the United Nations intended to ask countries which pledged economic assistance to nations affected by the

Prince Hassan welcomes France's stand on Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — French President Francois Mitterrand's address to the U.N. General Assembly brought a ray of hope to the world because it stressed the fact that war can be avoided in the Gulf and the world can be saved from its devastating consequences, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in a television interview.

"The views of the Soviet Union, a number of European countries and Japan with regard to this issue also provide additional rays of hope," said the Prince in an interview with the French Television, presented Sunday evening.

He said His Majesty King Hussein had been striving to end the Gulf crisis by peaceful means and had secured Iraq's consent to withdraw from Kuwait, but the opportunity was lost in the course of events. "Despite this, Jordan believes that it can play a role together with the rest of the Arab countries to bring about a peaceful settlement," Prince Hassan said.

"Through Amman, the world is communicating with Baghdad, and the Jordanian capital has been serving as a diplomatic channel for attaining a political settlement," Prince Hassan pointed out. He said that certain Western and Arab countries accuse Jordan of siding with Iraq, but Amman has already condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and has clearly pointed out that it can by no means condone the annexation of other countries, territories by force, as Israel did to Jerusalem. He noted that Jordan had been trying to preserve its own independent views and that it was better for the world to have Jordan play this important role as channel of communication and connection with Iraq.

The Prince said that Jordan would like to see international standards and legitimacy applied equally in all cases.

"Jordanians over the past three years have been witnessing scenes of violence in the occupied Arab territories which have caused the

death of 800 Palestinians and the injury of 45,000 others," said Prince Hassan.

Prince Hassan expressed the view that Iraq has been targeted by the West because it possesses a vast military power; he said that any talk about Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait would be just a secondary objective.

He said that Iraq was not the only country in the region to possess chemical, nuclear or biological weapons since Israel, Syria, Egypt and Libya have their own stockpiles of these mass destruction weapons.

In reply to a question about Jordan's economic difficulties, the Prince said: "Amman must know within one month about the financial assistance it is going to get from the world community because there is a growing feeling that Jordan is being subjected to constant political pressure."

He said: "If Jordan were to send troops to Saudi Arabia tomorrow, the whole situation would probably change." "We are ready to send troops to separate between two Arab parties, and we made this clear on Aug. 7 when Jordan announced its readiness to join other Arab and Islamic nations in helping to solve Arab-Arab issues and problems," the Prince added.

Referring to Jordan's trade, the Prince said that Jordan had lost nearly 50 per cent of its gross national products and of its exports of agricultural produce, which used to go to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in addition to losing income from Jordanian expatriates working in the Gulf region.

"Jordan, as you can see, is the victim of the current embargo against Iraq. It looks as though it was Jordan which invaded Kuwait, and it seems like we are being punished because we tried to make a link between the various issues of this region," said Prince Hassan.

He stressed that Jordan respects all U.N. Security Council resolutions and has a strong belief and confidence that it can contribute

towards the cause of peace and stability in the region.

"Jordan does not buy oil from Iraq, and the amounts that had been shipped to Jordan were merely payment for a \$100 million debt to the Kingdom," the Prince added.

"If Jordan had exported this oil, then it would have been a violation of the sanctions," he said.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan's borders with Iraq are almost closed and the government of Jordan has even stopped the shipment of medicines and milk, awaiting clarification about such shipments from the Security Council's Sanctions Committee.

"Jordan had been promised \$50 million in compensation for the damages and expenditures incurred directly or indirectly from the influx of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq, but it has received only \$4 million and the United States seems to be placing conditions on Jordan before sending any assistance to this country because Washington believes Amman was not doing enough to deserve such assistance," Prince Hassan pointed out.

"We have the right to decide the way we would like to live or die, this is our right in life," the Prince added.

"The world has been talking about a humanitarian problem in Eastern Europe but we too have a humanitarian problem in the Arab and Islamic World," Prince Hassan continued. He said 300 million Arab and Muslim people inhabit the area stretching from Cairo to Islamabad, and by the end of the present century 70 per cent of these people will be under 15 years of age.

"This is certainly the real problem for the Middle East region," the Prince said.

He expressed hope that no European would leave Jordan which, he stressed, would continue to shoulder its national and humanitarian responsibilities at all costs.

Taiwan, Canada, EC and Italy offer aid for evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Taiwan has donated \$1.5 million to Jordan to help it carry out its humanitarian mission towards the evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait and said that it would provide in-kind assistance to Jordan for the same cause.

Salameh Hammad, head of the government appointed Evacuee Welfare Committee, received a cheque with the donation from the director of the Amman-based Middle East Trade Office.

The Taiwanese official said that his country appreciated Jordan's humanitarian efforts towards the evacuees and was planning shipments of in-kind assistance to contribute to this noble cause.

Canada has donated \$425,000 to the Jordanian government to assist it for the services to the evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

A cheque for the sum was handed to the head of the government-appointed Committee for the Evacuee Affairs, Salameh Hammad, by Michael Chesson, charge d'affaires at the Canadian Embassy in Amman.

Chesson expressed the Canadian government's appreciation of Jordan's efforts to provide facilities for the evacuees and praised His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours to find solutions for the Middle East problems.

Hammad thanked the Canadian government for its contribution which, he said, would assist the government to carry on with its humanitarian work.

Meanwhile, the European Community (EC) announced Sunday that it would pay for the repatriation of a further 10,000 Sri Lankans expected to cross into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait over the coming few weeks, at a cost of \$4.9 million. The move was made in response to a call for assistance from the Sri Lankan government. An agreement between EC and the ambassador of Sri Lanka to Belgium was signed in Brussels on 19.10.1990.

The airlift will take place over a two-week period, with the first batch of passengers expected to be flown out of Amman Monday Oct. 22.

To date, the European Commission has financed the airlift of 22,788 Sri Lankan nationals from Amman to Colombo at a cost of \$10.6 million. The total cost of emergency aid provided by the European Commission to the evacuation programme in Jordan has reached \$58 million out of the \$77 million pledged.

The European Community member states have committed a further \$33 million.

The Italian ship "Jolly Bianco" arrived in the port of Aqaba carrying 1,570 tonnes of rice, for a total value of 2 billion Italian lire (about \$1.75 million) granted to the Jordanian government to help it face the serious economic difficulties due to the consequences of the Gulf crisis and the

inflow of foreign people from Iraq and Kuwait.

The rice was loaded in 79 containers, which are also part of the Italian grant, according to an Italian Embassy statement.

This food aid in rice, according to the statement, is only a part of the effort done by Italy for Jordan.

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AMMAN TRANSPORT AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (Loan No. 2334 - JO) TENDER REISSUE

The Municipality of Greater Amman intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above loan to the development of systems of cost accounting study for the technical departments in the Municipality of Greater Amman. Consultant offices may obtain the terms of reference for a non-refundable fee of JD 40 (Forty) J.D. starting on Monday 22/10/1990, from:-

Tenders Department
Municipality of Greater Amman
P.O. Box 132
Amman - Jordan
TLX: 21969 AMCITY JO
FAX: 6/649420

Documents will be granted free of charge for those who had previously purchased the documents from the Municipality. Closing date for accepting bids is 26/11/1990 at 12:00 noon at the same address above.

Hawari works on militias

(Continued from page 1)

Hawari said he wants government guarantees that his pro-Palestinian forces will not be allowed to operate in the three areas.

The Hawari aide said the same forces will be applied later in the Beirut slums, the stronghold of the fundamentalist Shiite Muslim Hizbollah.

Hizbollah is the umbrella for Lebanese extremists holding 13 of the 13 missing Westerners — six Americans, four British, two West Germans and an Italian.

Hawari's aide said the Syrians plan to move into the Beirut slums with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati when he visits Damascus later this week.

This will definitely include the slums of the Western hostages, where they're held in the slums. Hawari said the Syrians have been smuggled out to the "Valley," a Syrian-controlled area in east Lebanon, where they are being held.

There's a Syrian-Lebanese understanding that the hostages should be resolved in parallel with the creation of a greater Beirut, irrespective of where the hostages are being held. Where they are, the Syrians control the area, the aide said.

Two Lebanese army intelligence officers told the Associated Press last week that the six Amer-

ican captives and two of the Britons were spirited from south Beirut to the Bekaa before the Oct. 13 attack on Aoun.

France has asked that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council convene to discuss the conflicts in Lebanon, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Monday.

However, Dumas said it was up to France — to initiate any move in the United Nations to force the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Leaders of France's conservative opposition parties have held Syria responsible for killings that followed the assault on Aoun.

Aoun took refuge in the French embassy in Beirut, but Lebanese authorities have refused to let him go into exile, saying he should be put on trial. Dumas said the assassination of Chamoun, along with his wife and two sons, "shows the extent of the horrors" of Lebanon's civil strife.

"The quarrels that are ripping Lebanon apart must not be transferred to France," Dumas said. "Those who take up the cause of one clan against other clans must understand that, far from working for a solution in Lebanon, they are provoking hatred, vengeance and murder."

Iraq says foreigners abroad by Oct. 23 lose residence, work permits

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — All Jordanians who are not in Iraq or Kuwait by 12 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, will risk losing residence and work permits, a senior Iraqi Embassy official said Monday.

"All those wishing to keep their residence and work permits for Iraq or the province of Kuwait should be in the territories by Oct. 23," said Sabar Abbas Al Ahabbi, consul at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman in an interview with the Jordan Times.

Al Ahabbi explained that the measure was a temporary administrative step which was announced "some time ago." But for the nearly 350 people, mostly Arab nationals, lined up in front of the Iraqi Embas-

sy Monday the news was new rather than old.

"If we had not read about it in the newspaper we would not have known about the change in the entry permits," said one Jordanian trying to make sure he can make it back to his work place in Iraq on time.

"I heard by way of a friend and I am afraid I will not get back on time," said another in the long line of residence permit applicants.

The Iraqi Embassy official explained that a "special permit extension" had been made for the Arab nationals working in Iraq. "As of Aug. 2 no one was allowed in or out of Iraq without a permit, but the government decided Aug. 23, that they would give Arab nationals a two-month period to decide if they wanted to stay in Iraq and the Kuwaiti province or

leave. That time period ends Oct. 23," said Al Ahabbi.

Although all Jordanians and other Arab nationals were permitted to enter Iraq without a visa even before the Arab Cooperation Council, which groups Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and Egypt in an economic union, was founded, that will end "temporarily" as of Oct. 23, according to the Iraqi embassy official.

Between Nov. 5 and 7, the Iraqi government will conduct a population survey. Al Ahabbi said he was not certain about what will happen after the survey is taken. "We will wait for further instructions from Baghdad," he said.

About 300,000 Jordanian nationals still reside in Kuwait and Iraq; of these approximately 175,000 are wage earners.

Jordan Times

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Leave it to peacemakers

THE BRITISH prime minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, told Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov on Saturday that her government rejected any compromise over the Gulf crisis that Moscow and Paris are trying to promote as a peaceful way out of the stalemate. U.S. President George Bush had apparently taken a similar position in the wake of Primakov's recent talks with him.

Fortunately only Washington and London are against any form of compromise with Baghdad, suggesting therefore that they prefer a military confrontation there. What is most puzzling in the declared position of Bush and Thatcher is the fact that they talk as if Kuwait and the Gulf were their own property. What right do the U.S. and Britain have to accept or reject a political solution to the Kuwaiti situation, except that they have forces stationed there? We would have thought that the Kuwaiti government was the most concerned party and it is for it and it alone to take or leave a compromise. Secondly, if war is rejected as a means to resolve the Gulf crisis and negotiation is the remaining sane option left for the parties to pursue, then the concerned parties must be prepared to compromise in order to attain the objectives of negotiations. All concerned states need to at least satisfy some of their objectives before any such negotiations can be fruitful. This is the essence of negotiations. Of all capitals, Washington and London should be the first to comprehend the intricacies of the situation. As the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait is a long standing one touching upon disputed territory and other issues, it would seem sensible to discuss such territorial disputes here and now in order to encourage Iraq to sit on the negotiating table instead of forcing it to precipitate a major conflagration in the Gulf region. As Moscow and Paris appear ready and able to entertain a compromise formula in the Gulf, the U.S. and Britain are likewise called upon to manifest more reasonableness in the search for a permanent settlement of the Kuwaiti situation. It must be recalled that the Iraqi military action in Kuwait did not occur in a vacuum. It was the result of historical, geographical and economic problems. The Saudi Arabian defence minister's declaration Sunday that Iraq's legitimate claims against Kuwait can still be negotiated in a brotherly fashion appears to give another glimmer of hope that Riyadh is also entertaining an amicable compromise in the Gulf crisis. What better way is there than to encourage the Arabs themselves to prepare the ground for a settlement between Iraq and Kuwait and to bring in the international community later to reach a global resolution to the conflict? Washington and London's obstinate efforts to frustrate the dedicated efforts of the Soviet Union, France, and some other Arab countries, like Jordan, could spell disaster for all sides and hopes for lasting peace. They should moderate their stance, give peace a chance, or else leave it to others to try and avoid an imminent catastrophe.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Intensive pressure being exerted on Jordan now a days can only reflect a determined effort on the part of hostile forces to end the country's steadfastness and to sell out its national stand and future generations, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The United States and the other imperialist forces are living in illusion if they believe that such pressure would force Jordan to join the U.S.-led foreign intervention in the Arabian Peninsula. It also array its forces against Iraq, the paper added. What the Americans and their allies are doing now is imposing an embargo on Jordan and its international trade; and this is a very dangerous game because should it continue, it would mean a declaration of war on the Jordanian people by trying to starve its children and paralyzing its economic life, the paper pointed out. It said that Jordan and the Jordanian people can by no means accept to place their heads under the American boots, and the Jordanian people can by no means allow their armed forces to serve as mercenary troops serving the aims and objectives of the enemies of the Arab Nation. What the imperialist forces aim to achieve now, the paper said, is to involve Jordan and its people and armed forces in the process of weakening the Arab Nation and stemming its growth and progress. Washington, London and the other capitals which are now hatching conspiracies against the Arab Nation should realise before it is too late the Jordan which has been exposed to hardships and pressures holds many winning cards, and will act in time and in a manner to abort all conspiracies, the paper warned.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday criticised the public administration system in Jordan for lacking a clear cut policy for retiring government employees, and says that the way the process has been adopted so far is resented by civil servants and members of the public alike. Salah Abdul Samad refers in his column to a recent government decision to retire several governors at the Ministry of Interior, a process which, he says, happens now and then without any proper explanation to the retired persons or the civil servants at large. The writer says that no government employee welcomes the idea of being retired before reaching 60 years of age or serving for 30 years and indeed his or her achievements during the long service in government departments won them experience that should not be easily disposed off. The writer notes that the governors retired a few days ago have the right to know the reason for the decision especially since they had offered a great service and accomplished many achievements for the state. He also says that the public administration system in Jordan should lay down specific rules and sets of criteria to be followed for retiring government employees and that humane methods should be followed in informing the retired person of his or her end of services, not through a telephone conversation or a mere note on his or her desk in the morning.

The View from Fourth Circle

The Marlboro men of morality's last ride

There are positive indications from several quarters today that the chances of resolving the crisis in the Gulf through peaceful negotiations may be greater than the prospects of a destructive military shootout. The underlying political and psychological dynamics that have run their course in the past month are significant.

1. It should be clear by now that the initial reason or excuse which the American-led Western forces used for sending about 300,000 troops to the Gulf is inaccurate and invalid. That excuse was the protection of Saudi Arabia from an alleged Iraqi threat to attack Saudi Arabia and its oil fields.

No such threat ever existed. Therefore, there could be fertile diplomatic ground to explore the possibility of thinning out or changing the command structure of Western forces in the Gulf through an inter-Arab and international arrangement that would assure the security and territorial inviolability of Saudi Arabia. If this were assured, with adequate guarantees that could include great power and intra-Arab commitments through the Security Council, we would take a large step towards defusing the conflict. This would be a crucial first step towards securing an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and resolving bilateral Iraqi-Kuwaiti disputes.

2. The international embargo against Iraq will soon start to have a significant impact. It is important to remember that the Western forces entered the Gulf in order to protect Saudi Arabia and enforce the embargo against Iraq. The embargo itself was the key mechanism which the world agreed upon to force an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

3. Western public opinion is slowly but surely indicating some second thoughts about

the wisdom and the scope of the Western troop build-up in the Gulf. The American budget problem has highlighted the folly and the untenability of the belief that America is using its resources to assure a new post-Cold War world order. The grassroots wisdom and rationality of the American people are making themselves felt, at last, and American politicians are taking note. To reduce the medical benefits of elderly Americans in order to assure the profits of Texan oilmen through neo-colonial thrusts half way around the world is a rather repulsive prologue to a new world order of law and justice. It is also a rather sick joke at the expense of ordinarily honourable American principles.

4. Widespread and growing Arab and international efforts to promote a negotiated settlement portend enhanced chances of success in the future. French and Soviet efforts are probably the most noteworthy in this respect. Though a dramatic breakthrough is not expected, we can assume that the pace and scope of the search for diplomatic progress is a sign that the forces of reason will prevail over the forces of militarism.

5. The continued force of anti-American and anti-British sentiment in the region, in the face of the greatest single military mobilisation since World War II, should make it clear to Bush, Thatcher & Co. that the people of much of the Arab World have embarked on an important historical phase of their 500-year-old struggle against foreign imperial and colonial interference. Even if a war breaks out and Iraq is militarily checked or defeated, we would find ourselves at the start of a long-term and probably violent cycle of Arab-Western confrontation. Such a

development would be costly and divisive, and would serve nobody's long-term interests. It should be avoided, if possible.

6. Most important of all, I think, the chances of negotiations are enhanced by the fact that Iraq can be seen to have achieved virtually all of its political objectives. Therefore it can afford to withdraw from Kuwait according to terms that would be acceptable to itself, the Western forces allied against it, and the other Arabs who are calling for a negotiated solution free of Western military threats. In this respect, I would list Iraq's political achievements as follows:

a. It has sent a clear message to the Gulf states that they are vulnerable and perhaps even untenable entities that cannot expect to be left alone if they pursue arrogant policies that threaten the livelihood and national security of other Arab peoples. The political order in the Gulf which the British left behind in the first half of this century has proved itself to be a cruel fiction. It may have served British imperial interests decades ago, but it has been a resounding failure in terms of its ability to assure the Arab people of a life of honesty, justice, productivity, security and dignity.

Such an order can and should exist only on the basis of marshalling Arab resources in the service of pan-Arab goals, interests and aspirations, within a broader international order based on justice and mutual interests. It cannot exist on the basis of make-believe, miniature countries that have to scurry under the armour of American and British troops, and it cannot perpetuate financial flows that serve the interests of Western banks and oil companies before they serve the dreams and hopes of

200 million other fellow Arabs. Iraq has made the world come to grips with the reality that an Arab World destined to live with grotesque economic distortions and disequilibrium will reach the point where its people rise up and rebel against an unjust and untenable order that was formulated by the British and French and sustained by the Israelis and Americans.

b. It has sent a message to Israel that the Arab people will not forever remain docile and quiescent before the reality of an Israeli state that seeks to be a predatory regional superpower. It has made the world recognise that peace and stability in the Gulf or any other part of the Middle East are unattainable if Palestine, through the political fear and economic greed of the great powers, is ordained to remain in a state of injustice and instability. It has shown the West that its celebration of a new post-Cold War political order is partial and premature, as long as five million Palestinians and many millions of other Arabs in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan continue to suffer a debilitating national agony.

c. It has sent a message to the international community of nations that the global instrument of a just and stable world order — the United Nations and its Security Council and General Assembly resolutions — cannot be taken seriously if the legal dictates of that world order are applied selectively in different countries. If Iraq should not occupy and colonise Kuwait — and certainly it should not — then Israel should not occupy and colonise Palestine, and the United States should not finance that Israeli occupation and colonisation.

The zealotry that has characterised the international re-

sponse to Kuwait must be repeated with equal vigour in other conflicts in which one people is unjustly aggrieved by another. Last week, we saw the sickening spectacle of the United States government working overtime at the United Nations to generate a resolution on a fact-finding mission to Palestine that would be toothless and meaningless. If the United States and its partners shift into over-drive for Kuwait but stall in neutral for Palestine, they cannot expect anything other than the kind of disdain which they have generated from many parts of the Arab World this month.

d. And, Iraq has sent a message to the Western powers that their tradition of imperial and colonial control of Arab lands and resources must come to an end, in the same way that the Soviet empire has ended in Europe. Unwittingly or not, the Iraqis have rekindled the spark of pan-Arab nationalism that has remained in the hearts of all Arabs for all of this century. This does not mean that Saddam Hussein will be chosen as the leader of the Arabs, or that other Arab peoples will choose to emulate the domestic political system which prevails in Iraq. But it does mean that tens of millions of Arabs are standing up once again and forcefully telling the Americans and the British that we will not, as we did earlier this century, stand by idly as foreign troops threaten us with a political and economic order which has been shown to be a failure in all respects, whether in terms of our domestic life, regional integration or international relationships.

It is unfortunate that it required the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to bring these points to the attention of the world. This does not justify Iraq's actions or support its present posture.

One would have preferred that these lessons could have been learned without the subjugation of Kuwait. But, this is the reality of what has happened in the past 11 weeks. More important, perhaps, it could help point the way out of the present crisis.

The essential fact has been established: this is not a conflict only about Iraq and Kuwait, much as the West's Marlboro men of morality would like us to believe. Deep, pent-up feelings of disenchantment, anger and humiliation throughout the Arab World have been summoned forth since Aug. 2 to redress the terms of reference of this conflict. This is now a battle being fought over a legacy of Western imperial and colonial adventures in our lands and homes, over a history of international lassitude towards the plight of the Palestinians and the honour of hundreds of millions of other Arabs, and over a pattern of intra-Arab inequity and profligacy which cannot endure without producing new generations of Arabs fired by humiliation and rage.

Despite the emotionalism and heightened tensions of the moment, we should not lose sight of the fact that the aspirations of the Arabs and the objectives of the West still can be achieved simultaneously — the freedom of Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, and a national, stable Arab order which responds to the aspirations of all Arabs, and not only those with gold credit cards drawn on the Imperial Bank of Bush and Thatcher. The aspirations of all concerned can be achieved simultaneously — if there is sufficient clarity of mind, honesty of history and coolness of nerves to appreciate the full dimensions of the present situation on the ground and in people's hearts and minds.

Israel's role in the Gulf crisis

The following two letters to the editor are reprinted from the Guardian newspaper under the above headline.

The decision by the government of Israel not to cooperate with the United Nations Security Council investigating last week's killings of Arabs in Jerusalem (Guardian, October 15) is hard to understand. But even more puzzling is the attitude of Israel's allies in Washington, without whom Israel would itself become an easy prey to Arab aggression — as easy as Kuwait; there has been some grandly righteous posturing about that in Washington, but no one seems to have taken account of the comparable crimes perpetrated by Israel in the Arab territories west of the Jordan.

Meanwhile Saddam Hussein has drawn attention to this other lamentable situation and offered to withdraw provided Israel withdraws. He probably wouldn't, but that doesn't alter the moral situation. Those of us who fear his pretensions, yet say or do nothing about the West Bank, have in him the enemy we deserve, especially those who as Christians have supported Israel on the grounds of merely Biblical affirmations of Israel's right to lands west of Jordan and the Dead Sea.

Meanwhile Israel was offered by no less an Arab than Yasser Arafat the acknowledgment of its right to exist. What more does it want? Why did not Washington bring immediate pressure to bear on Israel about the Arab lands on its territory? Never mind, if Washington will not lean on Israel, Britain can lean on its American allies. What would the President feel if Britain were to pull out of his carefully fostered anti-Israeli alliance unless some righteous action were taken against Israel?

Christopher Pilkington.
(Hon Canon Emeritus, Bristol).
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Cornwallis Grove,
Bristol.

Having recently returned from the Occupied Territories and Israel, I can say that to visit Palestinians there is to gain a different and at least equally compelling perspective to that often presented with regard to both Israel and the Gulf conflict.

Arabs living within Israel would not recognise that country as the benign and liberal democracy which its apologists present. Their reality is of a fascist tyranny devoid of respect for human rights and in which they as Arabs are treated as racial inferiors.

The claim of Israel to be a democracy is to them a sham. Arabist parties are not permitted. Polling districts where ballot boxes are publicly emptied are so small that individuals are fearful of identification. Discrimination is also pervasive. Permits for house-building among a rapidly growing population are unavailable unless large areas of Arab land are surrendered to the state for Jewish settlement or use.

Over the last three years, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been taken into detention without the benefit of legal representation for periods of up to six months — extendable to a year. When appeals are made to the Military Government, decisions are made on the basis of secret files available neither to the accused nor his lawyer. Taxes are levied on Palestinians without any account as to what they are spent on. Universities are shut down with contempt for educational needs. Palestinians are short of water. Land is expropriated without effective compensation or appeal. At a whim, water and electricity can be cut off. Twenty-four hour curfews can be suddenly imposed. Harassment is normal and expected, in the extent that the purpose of the occupation is seen less as the defence of Israel and increasingly as

part of a long-term plan to pressurise the Palestinians to the East of the Jordan River.

Against this background, it is hardly surprising that refugee camps are decorated with Palestinian and Iraqi flags and combined portraits of Arafat and Saddam Hussein. No one else has offered to relieve generations of injustice, suffering and humiliation. At last it appears that a fellow Arab has the power to deliver.

For such people, an Arab dictator, however brutal, crucified on the cross of Western self interest will be as potent dead as alive. He should not have invaded Kuwait and should be removed by appropriate means. But to Arabs suffering under the Israeli yoke, the Gulf crisis is about cheap and plentiful oil to the "haves" of the West — and the unmerited protection of Israel. Other occupations go unreversed. Double standards prevail.

To remove Saddam Hussein without securing justice for the Palestinians would produce an enduring and seismic Arab reaction against those responsible. Thus are the Palestinian and Gulf crisis linked.

Tony Marlow.
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Germany can't stop worrying and learn to love communists

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuter

BERLIN — The new united Germany has officially welcomed the East's communists into its democratic system, but an armed police raid on their Berlin headquarters shows that it still cannot decide if they are friend or foe.

The Communist Party that held East Germany in an iron grip for 40 years has reformed and changed its name to the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS). It is represented in parliament and looks like staying there after December elections.

But the raid, made without a search warrant in the dead of night on Friday, has prompted widespread accusations of abuse of power and highlighted the mistrust still surrounding the party.

"The political leaders of this enlarged Germany find some of the things that have come in from the East very hard to stomach," the populist eastern daily Junge Welt commented.

Some 150 armed police forced their way into the offices of PDS Leader Gregor Gysi and former Prime Minister Hans Modrow, both officially enjoying immunity as parliamentary deputies.

They were looking for evidence of an alleged fraud worth 100 million marks (\$67 million) but came away empty-handed. The man who ordered the raid, Berlin's Councillor for Internal

Affairs Erich Paetzkold, still believes the PDS transferred the money illegally to Norway and the Netherlands and says he had to act fast before evidence disappeared.

But political observers agree that a similar raid on one of the mainstream parties would be unthinkable.

"The PDS hasn't been hauled. It must be given the same rights as anyone else," said Burkhard Hirsch, a senior member of the Liberal Free Democrats.

His view is not shared by Lutz Stavenhagen, state secretary responsible for the secret services, who said in an interview published on Sunday that the PDS might be a security risk.

"Our intelligence officials are carefully checking whether the PDS has acted or spoken out against the constitution...and whether we should keep watch on them," he told Bunte Magazine.

The PDS's previous incarnation, the Socialist Unity Party (SED), headed an authoritarian state kept in check by a vast security police network, the Stasi.

The party took over prime property throughout East Germany. Its disgraced former leaders are under investigation for embezzling state funds for their own or the party's profit.

A special commission is looking into the PDS's finances and has frozen its funds, requiring permission for any transaction.

Will the army let Benazir Bhutto return to power?

By Sharon Herbaugh
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Benazir Bhutto's opponents may bar her from office even if she gets the most votes in next week's election, or she might let them take over and risk political disaster in the economic crunch ahead.

"It's not everything that I be prime minister," the former prime minister told a reporter during a break in the campaign. "Why should I raise prices by 40 per cent, which is what they said they'll have to do after the elections? They'll have egg on their faces and we'll come back smiling next March. They won't last six months."

Economists say Pakistan is in for hard times because of a large debt, dwindling reserves, higher oil prices and a sharp decline in exports.

Whether she will be permitted to resume office has been a nagging question ever since Ms.

Bhutto was ousted on Aug. 6. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan used his constitutional power to dismiss her 20-month-old government on charges of corruption and abuse of power. He called elections three years ahead of schedule.

Suspicion has grown that martial law will be declared to keep Ms. Bhutto out of power, although top generals deny it. The army and the president wouldn't kick her out just to let her return three months later, the argument goes.

After 11 weeks of name-calling and nearly a dozen unresolved court cases, 50 million voters will be eligible to deliver their verdict Wednesday.

Despite increasing economic and social problems in this Muslim nation of 110 million people, Benazir Bhutto has been the only campaign issue.

Her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and its smaller allies are

pitted against the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), a loose coalition spanning the ideological spectrum and united only by opposition to Ms. Bhutto.

At stake are 217 seats in the National Assembly, the law-making lower house of parliament that elects the prime minister.

Pakistani campaigns usually are noisy, but this one has been relatively quiet, reflecting the cynicism of an electorate that has seen too many promises broken and democracy derailed too many times in the country's 43-year history.

Few will disagree that Ms. Bhutto's administration was disappointing.

Her inexperience and allegations of widespread corruption drained the large reservoir of goodwill that made her the first woman to lead a modern Muslim nation.

More than anything, both critics and supporters say, her

downfall stemmed from growing reliance on middlemen and a policy of giving party supporters jobs, contracts and other rewards.

"We made mistakes, no doubt about it," Ms. Bhutto said in the interview. "Any government is going to have differences of perceptions, but it's in the national interest that they be resolved."

Getting her out of office was easy enough, but the president and caretaker government made serious miscalculations afterward.

Ms. Bhutto, 37, was dragged from court to court in an attempt to prove she was Pakistan's most corrupt and incompetent leader. Her husband and dozens of supporters were arrested on what they claimed were trumped-up charges.

Her opponents portrayed her as a bad Muslim, a traitor who gave state secrets to India and sympathised with Israel.

Their main accomplishment was to deflect attention from Ms. Bhutto's dismal record, revive memories of the military overthrow in 1977 and subsequent execution of her father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and cast her as the martyr.

Her opponents were plagued by internal rivalries, and growing impatience in the military indicated things weren't going as the generals planned.

Most analysts predict neither side will win a decisive majority, giving the civilian and military establishment room to form a coalition government that will keep Ms. Bhutto out of power.

Still, her political organisation could emerge as the largest single party, as in November 1988.

Analysts predict the Pakistan People's Party will sweep Sindh, the former prime minister's home province, and possibly win Punjab,

her opponents' stronghold and the largest and most populous province.

The party has been perceived as the party of the poor and downtrodden since Ms. Bhutto's father founded it nearly 30 years ago. Ms. Bhutto inherited his mass support.

She still faces the threat of disqualification because of the half-dozen court cases pending against her.

Ms. Bhutto predicted the caretaker government would make a last-ditch attempt to pressure the special tribunals to exclude her from politics.

Even if they succeed, she said, there is still her mother to contend with.

"These little guys think it's easy to get rid of the Bhuttos?" she asked with a grin. "They shouldn't forget the name Begum Nusrat Bhutto."

Features

Free market policy freed from smuggling

By Kathleen Callo
Reuters

HANOI — Vietnam has rounded up hundreds of smugglers in a sometimes violent drive to protect its fledgling free market from unfair competition.

The nationwide campaign against contraband — particularly cigarettes — is part of a bid to boost tax revenue, protect local industry and discourage spending of scarce dollars on consumer goods.

The drive is one of several government measures to help Vietnam cope with the painful transition from a centrally planned economy to one exposed to free market forces, state economists said.

Hanoi newspapers have been filled in recent weeks with reports of customs police capturing hundreds of smugglers.

Several people were killed along the southwestern border with Cambodia in clashes between Vietnamese customs police and smugglers, one economist said.

Hanoi banned the import of all foreign cigarettes from Oct. 1 to protect local cigarettes production.

Police in 19 provinces foiled attempts to smuggle in 721,000 cartons of foreign cigarettes valued at 10 billion dong (\$3 million) between Aug. 3 and Oct. 2, the army newspaper Quan Doi Nhon Dan reported. They recovered more than one billion dong (\$167,000) in taxes.

About 60 per cent of smuggled goods come from Thailand — by sea or by land across Cambodia and Laos — and the rest from China, said Le Xuan Nghia, an economist at the government's Institute for Scientific Research of Market and Price.

"It's a big problem for Vietnam's economy because those things smuggled in from Thailand are not being taxed," Nghia said in an interview.

Hanoi cannot afford to see precious foreign exchange used to finance contraband. Exports totalled only \$1.8 billion in 1989, Nghia said. A similar figure was expected this year.

"We have to use that third currency to pay for oil products and other production materials, equipment and technology," he said.

said. "Instead of paying for those imports, we are spending one quarter of that amount on smuggled consumer goods."

The success of the government's anti-smuggling drive was evident in the last week of September when the black market rates for the U.S. dollar and gold — a more accurate indicator of conditions than the state bank rates — fell to their lowest levels in months, economists said.

One dollar bought 4,000 dong in April and soared to 7,000 dong by mid-September, but it dipped suddenly to 5,800 dong in the last week of September when demand for dollars slumped as police clamped down on smugglers, economists said.

The government has introduced new rules requiring local companies to register with the state and obtain import licences, and has dispatched extra customs guards to border regions.

While the standard of living has improved from a couple of years ago, the economy is showing signs of strain this year and the smuggling hasn't helped.

Vietnam drove down its inflation from four-digit levels a few years ago to about 30 or 40 per cent last year. It is edging up again this year and Nghia said the figure now stood at 60 or 70 per cent.

Unemployment is another worry. Soldiers who returned last year from Cambodia and workers coming home in droves from Eastern European countries that no longer want them have swollen the ranks of the jobless.

As the three-year-old economic reforms take hold, thousands of state-run companies that no longer receive government subsidies and cannot compete with inexpensive imports from Thailand and China have collapsed, economists said.

However, officials voice commitment to reform. Their anti-smuggling campaign is a part.

"The initial achievements are still modest but the decisive factor is that the renewal process is on the right track and has yielded results beyond our expectation," Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach told the U.N. General Assembly this month.

"It is possible to affirm that the line of all-round renewal has become an irreversible process."

Religion vs army battle continues in Burma

By Kevin Cooney
Reuters

BANGKOK — The army and the Buddhist faith, the dual centres of Burma's split personality, are in mortal conflict over the decision by many monks to protest against military rule by simply doing nothing.

"Soldiers have surrounded three monasteries in Mandalay and it looks like they plan to go in," an informed source in the capital, Rangoon, told Reuters by telephone.

Monks say two of their colleagues were shot dead in August during an anti-government demonstration in Mandalay. Since then, many monks have refused to accept alms from soldiers or tend to the religious needs of their families.

Soldiers have had to wed and welcome the births of their children without blessings and bury their dead without benefit of clergy.

Senior monks have demanded that General Saw Maung, head of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), apologise on national radio and television for the incident.

Now, since midnight on Saturday, Buddhist organisations participating in the boycott have been banned by the SLORC.

"These illegal organisations through their deeds, words and publications are threatening, blackmailing and boycotting the state government and are found to be undermining law and order," the SLORC announced on radio Rangoon as martial music played ominously in the background.

The music was a reminder of 1988 when the army turned their rifles on unarmed democracy campaigners and killed hundreds, including monks.

"The monks have a hold over the common soldier that a politician does not have," a Rangoon-based diplomat said as the boycott spread south to the capital. "But they are taking an increasingly confrontational course that's leading them into danger."

"The army has shown before that it does not regard a monk's robe as sacred."

There are 50,000 temples in Burma and 300,000 monks and novices at any one time, official figures indicate. The army has ruled the country in one guise or another for three decades.

"I have tolerated as much as I can and you, my teachers, can see that I have also been doing whatever is necessary. I have decided to take measures that should be taken," Saw Maung told a gathering of abbots last week.

He told them the situation in Burma today reminded him of the problems faced by King Anamratha, who ruled a vast realm from the city of Pagan from 1044 to 1077.

Anamratha made war against a group of recalcitrant priests in northern Burma and sent tens of thousands of their followers into exile.

Mandalay, the main northern city of modern Burma, was at the centre of 1988's anti-government campaign and has remained rebellious.

"Monks are the last challenge for the government," the Rangoon source said.

He said the National League for Democracy, which overwhelmingly won an election in May only to be refused any role in government by the army, was "important at the moment."

Another diplomat based in the capital said he would not rule out wholesale arrests of clergymen.

A Burma analyst at a Western embassy in Bangkok said the government's ban on a major escalation of the situation.

"They [the ruling generals] are obviously very worried," he added. "I don't see how either side can back down. Missing with religion in Burma is a very dodgy business."



The emperor and empress of Japan

Broken traditions continue to draw frowns in Japan

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

TOKYO — When the heir to Japan's throne announced more than 30 years ago that he would wed a commoner, the nation's former aristocracy lamented the end of an era.

Already stripped of their titles by the allied occupation forces following World War II, they were being confronted with the end of another birthright — supplying the throne with empresses.

Michiko Shoda, the wealthy businessman's daughter who became the first commoner to marry a future Japanese monarch, has since brought a quiet revolution to an ancient and tradition-bound institution. With the support of her husband, Emperor Akihito, she has brought a secluded and often mysterious palace closer to the people.

Empress Michiko, who turned 30 this week, will stand beside her husband next month as he is formally coronated.

"The people of Japan were very happy that Michiko was chosen," said Minoru Hamano, a former imperial chamberlain who also served as a tutor to Emperor Akihito years ago.

"But within the old nobility there was a good deal of jealousy — they wanted their own daughters to be selected," said Hamano, who also oversaw the education of one of Akihito's sons, the crown prince. "The opposition to Michiko remains strong to this day."

Michiko met then Crown Prince Akihito on a tennis court in 1957. Not only did Michiko and her partner win the doubles

match against the future monarch, she also won his affections. They were wed April 10, 1959.

Besides being an avid tennis player, the empress is said to be fluent in English and an accomplished harp and piano player.

The warm smile for which Michiko was known has been replaced with a quiet reserve over the years, and fatigue is often clear in her expression.

"She met with a great deal of opposition along the way, and in her face you could tell when her life was particularly difficult," said Midori Watanabe, a professor of women's studies at Bunka Women's University.

Hamano, who served the imperial family for 20 years, described Michiko as strong-willed, thoughtful and "clever, but not wise."

"She is too concerned with her popularity, and has her servants go out and buy weekly women's magazines to see what they are writing about her," Hamano said in an interview. "The emperor would not worry about such things."

He said that although Michiko is not a Christian, her Catholic education gave her a strong sense of perseverance and the ability to withstand the pressures of her rank.

Watanabe, a former reporter who covered the palace for more than two decades for a Japanese television network, described Michiko's impact on the throne as "historic, reflecting the democratic society of postwar Japan."

"She has done more to open up the palace to the people than

anyone else," Watanabe said. "Just being who she is has also attracted the nation to her."

And, Watanabe said, without the precedent set by Michiko, the wedding early this summer of the royal couple's younger son, Prince Akihito, to another commoner, Princess Kiko, might not have been possible.

Kiko is the daughter of a professor of far humbler means than Michiko's wealthy father, and lived in a small apartment with her family until moving to the palace.

Hamano said Michiko's greatest accomplishment has been to give Akihito what he most wanted — a family life similar to that of "common" Japanese.

With Akihito's consent, Michiko began breaking palace tradition soon after the birth of their first child, Crown Prince Naruhito. She made it clear that her children would not be taken away and raised by strangers.

No longer were women hired to breast feed the royal heir at night, and a kitchen was arranged so that Michiko could fix her children's school lunches.

Hamano said he was probably the first chamberlain allowed to scold an imperial heir, and that he did so just as he would with his own children.

"I had the full approval of the emperor and empress, but it took a lot of courage, since, after all, the child I was disciplining is a future emperor," he said.

The former chamberlain said that to this day the emperor and his family still call him "Mr. Hamano," a sign of respect that was inconceivable before the war.

English is "annoying"

By Andrew Morgan
Reuters

MONTREAL — The Canadian flag could once again grace Quebec's 200-year-old parliament building if Gordon Atkinson has his way.

The maple leaf was pulled down after the province's independence Parti Quebecois took power in 1976.

Atkinson belongs to the Equality Party, a fringe group of English-speaking politicians who stunned the French-speaking province first by competing in the provincial arena and then by capturing four of the 125 seats in the legislature.

Quebec's English Canadians — accounting for just 15 per cent of the province's 6.5 million residents — are wealthier on average than French Canadians but feel oppressed by the increasingly nationalist majority.

The most visible symbol of this is a controversial 1988 law banning English from outdoor shop signs in Quebec.

The Equality Party, dubbed the Eeks by its detractors, has capitalised on the disenchantment of Anglophones, who feel marginalised in a province they have inhabited for centuries.

"We are the symbol of the frustration of a community not being consulted," said Atkinson, a 69-year-old former radio broadcaster from Montreal.

The party says individual rights have been trampled on by a government yielding to the collective will of the French-speaking majority.

In 1988, the liberal government headed by Robert Bourassa invoked a controversial clause in the constitution to override a federal high court ruling and push through the law on shop signs. The court had said the law

violated individual freedom of expression.

"There are many ways to promote and preserve and enrich the vitality of the French language without the recourse of language restrictions," said 29-year-old party leader Robert Libman, nicknamed the "boy leader."

Libman infuriated French Quebecers earlier this year when he said the province's English speakers were in some respects worse off than French Canadians in the rest of Canada. He sought police protection after receiving dozens of death threats.

Six months later, the statement still dogs Libman. "It [the statement] was just too big an error," said Pierre Azoul, a political scientist at Montreal's English-speaking McGill University. "It makes it just about impossible for them to attract a prominent Francophone."

Mousetraps still a source of human fascination

By Julia Hayley
Reuters

BEDWAS, Wales — The French favour of a line of garottes, which can strangle up to 10 at a time.

In 18th century England people balanced a solid oak block which thundered down to crush an infiltrator at the slightest jolt.

Mousetraps have fascinated some of the world's best inventors for hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

"If a man write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap... the world will make a beaten path to his door," Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote last century.

But designing mousetraps is not as simple as it may sound.

Jeremy Procter's mousetrap museum in this Welsh village is full of examples of traps that failed as well as those that succeeded.

— intended to catch the mouse alive — failed to account for the animal's ability to turn round in a tight space.

Those designed to be humane are not necessarily so. The mouse often dies of fright or starves to death, Procter says.

An elegant African trap in his collection is made from woven thorn tree twigs with the thorns pointing inwards like barbs on a fish hook.

One of the most dramatic is a replica of an ancient Egyptian trap used in tombs to stop rats and mice eating the offerings of food and probably the bodies too, Procter says.

It is a shoe-box sized clay box with four slits in each side and a neat oval trap door triggered by the mouse or rat eating the bait at the far end.

Procter, director of Procter Brothers — makers of Little Nipper mousetraps — confesses to being a fanatical muscipelist

(mousetrap collector).

"It's a confrontation between man and nature on a scale that even the most timid of us can manage," he says.

"The ingenuity people have applied to this problem over the years is very appealing."

The golden age for mousetrap invention was the second half of the last century, Procter says. A catalogue dated 1898-1900 has a rich variety of cages, springs, spikes and chutes.

Peak usage in Britain was probably during the post World War II shunt clearances.

For those outside the shunt, mice have been somewhat of an embarrassment, says John Parry, who has worked in Procter's mousetrap factory for 38 years.

Mice are traditionally associated with dirt and people often do not want their neighbours to know they have mice.

Mousetrap sales used to be "a plain brown wrapper, under the counter job," according to Procter. Even now, Parry says, local research shows people in this part of Wales will often go to another town where they are not known to buy their traps.

Traps are still the most effective method of killing mice, he says.

Poisons will never onto traps: They take 24 hours to work and in that time the mouse can have mated with another, and the offspring may be immune."

And mice are not far behind rabbits in their breeding capacity, Parry says. They start breeding at eight weeks and a pair can produce 2,500 offspring in a year.

With mild winters and plentiful litter on the streets mice and rats are flourishing, Procter says. Sales look good.

Traps do not have to be complex. Sometimes the simplest designs work best, he says.

Procter Brothers' Little Nipper mousetrap, which the firm claims

is the world's best-selling, is unchanged from its 1895 design.

It is one of many variations of the breakfast trap — a simple block of wood with a powerful spring that snaps shut on the mouse's head.

Procter says it needs a force of 2.5 pounds (1.1 kilos) to kill a mouse cleanly. The Little Nipper gives a mouse 10.38 milliseconds to escape.

Even if the 20th century has produced few of the best traps, modern civilisation does have something to offer in mouse baiting.

Chesse is out of fashion. Peanut butter is in.

Anything sweet will do, Parry says. Chocolate or raisins can also work, but if you use a dry piece of bait a clever mouse will lift it off.

One Londoner who has had trouble with mice, but declined to be named, swears by strawberry yoghurt.

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Jordan Times
JORDAN MARKET PLACE

UAE beats Jordan in under-16 Asian soccer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Host United Arab Emirates (UAE) and China continued their impressive form in the fourth Asian Youth Soccer Championships in Dubai with decisive victories over Jordan and India, respectively.

The UAE beat Jordan 5-1, with the score 4-0 at half-time. The Chinese recovered after conceding an early goal to India to win 3-1. China trailed at half-time 0-1.

Both UAE and China, having won their first two Group A qualifying matches, seemed certain to qualify for the semi-finals of this seven-nation tournament on Oct. 26.

In Group B, Qatar, South Korea and Indonesia are battling for the semi-final berths. South Korea and Indonesia drew 1-1 Saturday.

UAE burst ahead with three goals within four minutes in the

When order was restored, the referee booked Limpar and team mate Nigel Winterburn.

Last season Arsenal were fined £20,000 (\$38,980) and warned about their future conduct after similar trouble in a league match at Highbury against Norwich, who were fined £50,000 (\$97,450).

The F.A. could impose a heavy fine on Arsenal and United even despite league points.

United Manager Alex Ferguson later disciplined players who had been involved in the brawl, although he refused to identify the individuals concerned or specify their punishment.

"I've had the players in this morning and we went through the video of Saturday's incident together," Ferguson said. "We have taken the appropriate action."

Ferguson said he had acted swiftly to punish his players so ~~that they could then turn their full~~ attention to Tuesday's European Cup Winners' Cup second-round, first-leg match against Welsh side Wrexham.

Leconte Championship

Ivanisevic, 19, received \$250,000 for his first win in the prestigious exhibition event. The unseeded Leconte, 27, got \$160,000. The tournament is now offering a \$1 million, diamond-encrusted golf race to the first player who wins it three times in a five-year span.

The Yugoslav, ranked 11th in the world, had lived dangerously throughout the tournament.

DO YOU HAVE FUN?

OH, LOTS OF FUN! I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE GAMES!

WHAT G DID YOU PLAY

KYOTO, Japan (AP) — Australian Kristine Radford rallied to defeat Japan's Rika Hiraki 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-3 Sunday to win the Bridgestone Japan Women's Tennis Circuit tournament. Trailing 1-3 in the third set, Radford, the No. 3 seed, saved two break points in the fifth game and then took the next four games to win the match. Radford then paired with Australian compatriot Kerry-Anne Guse to defeat the Japanese pair of Yasuyo Kijita and Hiraki 6-3, 6-4 for the doubles title in the match played at the Kyoto Obatagawa Tennis Court in western Japan.

WHERE WERE YOU, JEFF?

OVER TO MY GIRL ENCEES BIRTHDAY PARTY!

DID YOU HAVE FUN?

OH, LOTS OF FUN! I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE GAMES!

WHAT GAMES DID YOU PLAY?

POST OFFICE!

POST OFFICE? THAT'S A CHILDISH GAME!

?

NOT THE WAY I PLAY IT, IT AIN'T!

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The New York Times Syndicate, Inc.

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LÉAS: (July 22 to August 21) Consider your various income sources. You will have more than one in a scrupulous manner; tonight and you raise credit; tonight discuss money matters with mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put as much time as possible today upon your own personal interests. About 9 p.m., go to bed.

CANCER: (September 23 to October 23) Go into them this very good day. Be thorough.

RACERS: (February 20 to March 20) Quickly get into some race about putting across your talent in the morning and make operate successfully; tonight enjoy spy entertainment you like.

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HARRIS 9-20

"I'd help you with the dishes
except I'm too tired to push the
start button on the washer."

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DABIE

ACTUD

ROYLOP

BONECK

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A " "

Looks like we're going to have great fishing!

Don't bet on it!

WHAT THE SKEPTIC'S OUTLOOK IS.

[illegible]

Sri Lanka to request more aid

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka will ask for \$850 million in aid from developed countries and donor agencies at a meeting in Paris Tuesday, a finance ministry official said Monday. The aid request "will be to meet a myriad of economic problems, plus the big one caused by the Gulf crisis," said finance ministry spokesman Prabath Manawasinghe. The request, if approved, would be \$100 million more than Sri Lanka received last year. Officials estimate Sri Lanka's losses at three billion rupees (\$75 million) this year as a consequence of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. That figure includes \$32.5 million in remittances from 90,000 Sri Lankans working in Kuwait and an oil bill \$25 million higher than expected.

Biggest bank in U.S. posts 38% profit drop

NEW YORK (R) — Citicorp, the biggest banking company in the United States, has said its profits slumped 38 per cent in the third quarter of the year. The gloom at Citicorp underscored the jitters spreading through much of the banking industry as the economy sputters, and the bank predicted the worst was far from over as it joined a string of big banks hit by delinquent real estate loans. Manufacturers Hanover Corp., the eighth-largest U.S. bank, meanwhile reported a profit of \$77 million for the quarter but set aside millions to cover potential loan defaults. Earnings at Citicorp, Manufacturers Hanover and other big banks might have been even worse had it not been for strong profits from foreign currency trading, industry analysts said. New York-based Citicorp wrote off \$201 million and put aside another \$82 million in the quarter, largely to cover delinquent real estate loans and write-offs on leveraged buyouts. This ate into its net income, which fell to \$221 million, or 56 cents a share, from \$358 million, or 99 cents a share, in the third quarter of 1989. "Citicorp believes that it has aggressively responded to deterioration of domestic real estate values... (but) this market has not yet stabilised," the company said. Citicorp shares fell on the report, losing \$1.125 to close at \$13 on the New York Stock Exchange, where it was the most active issue.

U.S. tobacco exports surge

PRINCETON, New Jersey (AP) — The U.S. tobacco industry recorded a trade surplus of \$2.5 billion for the first half of 1990, an increase of \$554 billion from the same period last year, an industry group has said. The United States exported \$2.95 billion worth of tobacco products and raw leaf during the first six months of 1990, according to Thomas Slane, a vice-president of the Tobacco Merchants Association. The bulk of this, \$2.2 billion, was finished products, including shipments of 73.7 billion cigarettes worth \$2.05 billion. The United States imported \$463 million worth of tobacco during the first half of the year, most of which was bulk leaf, Slane said. The United States ran an overall trade deficit of \$41.1 billion during the first half of the year. Slane attributed the increased surplus to the lowering of trade barriers against American cigarettes.

Oman's oil-driven economy to reap windfall from high prices this year

DUBAI (R) — Oman is looking forward to a windfall from higher world oil prices this year due to the Gulf crisis, after the government announced better than expected economic figures for 1989. Independent economists said the largely-desert sultanate of about 1.5 million people, where government spending is a key indicator of overall growth, might even achieve a budget surplus in 1990 after years of deficits. "Final government accounts for 1989... show significant increase in revenues, a moderate expansion in expenditure, and a notable improvement in the fiscal position" over previous forecasts, the central bank said in a report. The latest figures from the

bank, received in Dubai, showed gross domestic product (GDP) grew 16.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1990 over the same period a year ago. GDP at current prices in 1989 grew 10.4 per cent to 3.23 billion rials (\$8.5 billion) after a 2.6 per cent fall in 1988, the bank said. The key to economic performance is revenue from the state-run oil sector, which in 1989 accounted for more than 80 per cent of total revenues and about two-thirds of spending. Oman has for years followed a conservative policy when estimating the price it expects for its oil in the coming budget year. A world oil glut in the 1980s justified its caution.

In 1989, Oman was paid an average \$16.25 per barrel for its oil after only \$13.52 in 1988. But this year oil prices leaped after Iraq invaded Kuwait, triggering fears of a major war. Oman's oil has been selling for more than \$30 a barrel, against an official forecast of \$15 for 1990 made earlier in the year. The price dropped to around \$27 this week on reduced Gulf tensions. But the average for the year likely to be way above the forecast price, which should boost 1990 revenues above the budgeted 1.4 billion rials (\$3.7 billion). The provisional 1990 deficit was set at 313.4 million rials (\$823 million).

Central bank figures showed 1989 revenues rose 12.6 per cent to 1.35 billion rials (\$3.55 billion) while expenditure rose 5.4 per cent to 1.64 billion (4.3 billion). Oman's long-term strategy is to develop the non-oil sectors of its economy, particularly farming and fisheries, with its oil revenue. Proven oil reserves of some where over four billion barrels are small by Gulf standards, but Oman manages to produce around 700,000 barrels per day. With an eye on firmer oil prices in the 1990s, Oman signed a \$500 million contract last week with U.S. firm Brown and Root to increase output by up to 150,000 barrels per day.

Pakistan's post-election government to inherit huge economic headache

ISLAMABAD (R) — Whoever wins Pakistan's elections Wednesday will inherit a huge economic headache that will call for some very unpopular decisions. The first is likely to be a steep rise in petrol and diesel prices, held down by the government for electoral reasons despite the world rise caused by the Gulf crisis. But with foreign exchange reserves only enough to cover one day's imports, Pakistan needs swift help from other countries and institutions. Action on fuel prices will be the minimum demanded in return, economists say. The effect of what could be a 25 per cent oil price rise will worsen inflation, already in double figures. A recent opinion poll showed prices as the average voter's top concern.

"We are very worried about the economy," caretaker Cabinet Minister Kamal Azfar said in an interview. "Whoever comes into power will have to grapple with some very serious problems." As long as Wednesday's elections are clearly free and fair there will be no shortage of goodwill for Pakistan, one of the main economic victims of the Gulf crisis. Caretaker Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz says the crisis could cost the country around \$2 billion a year in higher oil prices, loss of remittances from the tens of thousands of Pakistanis that have fled Kuwait and Iraq, and a cut in trade. An economist in Islamabad for a major donor said they were very sympathetic to Pakistan's position and wanted to help. "The government is going through a difficult time but (has) to put (its) own house in order,"

said the economist. "Pakistan is going to have to come up with a credible, coherent and sustainable programme of economic adjustment." Holding oil prices steady might have been politically vital for the government, installed after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed prime minister Benazir Bhutto in August, but its impact on the deficit and balance of payments has been severe. Pakistan, placed in the second league of Gulf casualties after Jordan, Turkey and Egypt, hopes to get some of the emergency aid being set aside for nations harmed by the crisis. Aziz returned from Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi last week, saying he believed they would provide \$500 million to help Pakistan deal with its immediate problems. And foreign bank officials said Sunday that the government

would soon sign a commercial loan package worth \$200 million to finance oil imports and rice exports. Together that would give Pakistan time to take enough action to satisfy the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank that they should provide emergency assistance, and a package of quickly disbursing funds could be in place within two months. But Pakistan would first have to agree to a fresh economic reform programme that would probably include a commitment to broaden the tax base, cut fiscal and trade deficits and squeeze money supply and credit. Payments on a previous reform package agreed just before the last elections in 1988 were deferred in June because of Pakistan's failure to meet a series of economic targets.

Oil prices fall to \$30

NEW YORK (AP) — Crude oil futures prices plummeted more than \$3 a barrel in heavy trading Monday amid optimism that a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis may be on the horizon. Prices tumbled in London and plunged when trading shifted to New York as the markets reacted to comments by Saudi Arabian defence minister Prince Sultan, who suggested that Arab countries were willing to grant Iraq "all its rights." "The statement has really gotten the markets unsettled," said Andrew Lebow, an analyst with E.D.F. and Man International Inc. "There is some expectation that maybe an Arab-proposed solution... is in the cards." Market observers called Sultan's comments the most conciliatory since the crisis began. In early dealings on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the contract for November delivery of light, sweet crude was off \$3.14 at \$30.65 a 42-gallon barrel. The contract had traded briefly below \$30 before inching higher. The decline comes on the heels of further losses Friday, when the November contract settled down \$3.01 a barrel. Earlier in London, North Sea Brent blend crude oil for December delivery fell to \$29.10 a barrel in early afternoon trading from \$32.40 late Friday. Prices of refined products also fell sharply. The contract for wholesale unleaded gasoline for November delivery, which lost more than 5 cents Friday, was trading at 80.75 cents a gallon (3.8 litres) on the New York Merc. down a steep 7.16 cents. Home heating oil was down 7.01 cents a gallon at 80.90 cents after the near-term contract lost 8.11 cents Friday. The market interpreted Sultan's comments as a sign that Saudi Arabia was prepared to agree to Kuwait ceding some land to Iraq. Traders pushed prices lower on the belief that this development might lead to a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis. Activity in London was fairly light as many traders stayed on the sidelines waiting out the decline.

Soviet economy worsens in first 9 months of '90

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has released details of falling production and living standards, after parliament approved an historic switch to a market economy. The state statistics committee Goskomstat published figures showing falling industrial output and declining exports of crude oil, a major hard currency earner, during the first nine months of this year. "The figures... bear witness to a further intensification of the crisis in society. Production continued to fall... the economy became more unmanageable," Goskomstat said in its introduction to the figures, which appeared in the weekly Ekonomika i Zhizn (Economy and Life). The Soviet Union looks certain to record its second consecutive trade deficit this year after 13 years of surpluses. Although imports remained stable during the first nine months of 1990, exports fell by 12 per cent, mainly due to a drop in trade with the countries in Eastern Europe. Until the political revolutions of 1989, these formed part of a close-knit Soviet Bloc. Most alarming was the performance of the oil industry. The Soviet Union is the world's largest crude oil producer and needs to export as much as it can to benefit from the current high prices to cut its hard currency deficit. But the dilapidated state of the industry's equipment is taking its toll. Exports of crude oil in the first nine months of 1990 fell 6.3 million tonnes, while production slumped 23.5 million tonnes to 433 million tonnes. Petrol production fell five per cent and exports fell by 2.1 million tonnes. Diesel exports dropped by 2.2 million tonnes. Coal production also suffered, falling 27 million tonnes to 528 million tonnes. Hinting at a tough winter to come, Goskomstat said supplies of oil and coal to power stations had dropped by five and two per cent respectively. The food situation was little short of disastrous, despite this year's record harvest. Production of meat — still in very short supply — fell four per cent. "There were serious problems with food production. The population could only buy three-quarters of its needs (from state shops)," Goskomstat said. Rationing in various forms exists throughout the country. Other information about the first nine months of 1990 shows that: — Overall production was only 99.1 per cent of that registered in the same period of 1989. Gross national product fell by 1.5 per cent. — Exports fell by six billion roubles (\$1.1 billion) to 43.5 billion roubles (\$8.1 billion). — Imports edged up 0.1 billion roubles (\$0.2 billion) to 52.5 billion roubles (\$9.7 billion). — Imports of meat shot up 71 per cent, while those of tea rose 25 per cent and grain 17 per cent. — Consumer goods accounted for 36 per cent of all imports. — Families spent five per cent more on food and 12 per cent more on other goods, while prices of vital foodstuffs rose 5.6 per cent. — Inflation rose nine per cent. Independent economists say it is now running at 20 per cent or more. — The shortage of goods boosted black market prices, which are forecast to rise by 200 to 300 per cent by the end of 1990. — The time lost through strikes and other disputes increased by 60 per cent and cost more than one billion roubles (\$1.95 billion). On average, 50,000 people a day were absent from work due to strikes. — Unemployment was calculated at two million, but Goskomstat said only 137.5 million people out of the 164 million capable of working were in employment. It gave no explanation for the apparent discrepancy.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES		
Monday, October 22, 1990 Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	652.0 (656.0)	
Pound Sterling	1272.5 (1280.1)	
Deutschemark	452.8 (454.4)	
Swiss franc	512.2 (515.3)	
French franc	129.2 (130.0)	
Japanese yen (for 100)	516.8 (519.9)	
Dutch guilder	383.8 (386.1)	
Swedish krona	116.6 (117.3)	
Italian lira (for 100)	57.8 (58.1)	
Belgian franc (for 10)	210.1 (211.4)	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
TOKYO — Tokyo stocks closed firmer, marking the first time in 1990 the Nikkei average has charted gains for six consecutive days. It rose 589.37 to 25,070.86.	
SYDNEY — A breakdown in U.S. budget talks cut short expected gains on the Australian share market after Wall Street and the Nikkei surged. The All Ordinaries index closed 4.1 down at 1,364.6.	
HONG KONG — Steady buying of safe blue chips and bursts of interest in a few minors drove stocks up to close solidly higher. The Hang Seng index closed 23.61 up at 3,015.56.	
SINGAPORE — Shares closed on a firm note as investors went on a buying spree after the Malaysian general elections. The Straits Times industrial index climbed 33.38 to 1,173.23.	
BOMBAY — Shares fell on selling triggered by row over a disputed religious site which threatens to bring down Prime Minister V.P. Singh's minority government. The Bombay Stock Exchange index dropped 56.78 points to 1,223.40.	
ZURICH — The market ended slightly lower. The SPI shed one point to close at 954.	
PARIS — French stocks closed lower as the market wound down ahead of Tuesday's monthly settlement. The CAC-40 index fell 4.75 points, or 0.29 per cent, to end at 1639.95.	
LONDON — Stocks ended firmer supported by a fall in oil prices and the cut in the U.K. September current account shortfall to \$845 million. The FTSE closed at 2,102, up 13 points.	
NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips were trading off session lows at midday, but were under pressure from continued profit-taking and concern over lack of a U.S. budget plan. The Dow 30 lost about 27 to 2,494.	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.		
One Sterling	1.9500/10	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1695/1705	Canadian dollar
	1.5075/80	Deutschemark
	1.6990/7000	Dutch guilder
	1.2730/40	Swiss franc
	31.00/05	Belgian franc
	5.0465/0515	French franc
	1129/1130	Italian lire
	126.25/35	Japanese yen
	5.5850/5900	Swedish krona
	5.8440/90	Norwegian crown
	5.7475/7525	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	368.80/369.30	U.S. dollars

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Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155

Izzat Al Alaili & Yahia Al Fakhriani in

THE EXECUTION OF A JUDGE (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

Mahmoud Yassin & Bush in

LICENCE TO KILL (Arabic)

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238

Ahmad Zaki and Raghdah in

KABORIA

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

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Mahathir routs opponents to win Malaysia elections

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad began a third term in power Monday after routing a combined opposition challenge in Malaysia's general election to emerge with a comfortable two-thirds majority.

His 10-member multi-racial National Front Coalition took 127 of the 180 parliamentary seats in the weekend polls. Malaysia's eighth since independence in 1957.

"This shows that the people want a strong government," Mahathir, 64, told reporters early Monday.

Malaysian share prices opened strongly after the victory, with the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange composite index climbing 16.19 points or 3.4 per cent to 492.98 by midday Monday.

Leading the surge were companies linked to Mahathir's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party, the dominant partner in the coalition.

With the two-thirds majority, Mahathir can push through legislation in parliament easily and need not fear threats of defection from coalition members.

Opposition leader Razaleigh

Haniff, 53, whom analysts said would be the biggest challenge to Mahathir since he took office in 1981, admitted his alliance performed below expectations.

Razaleigh's Semangat 46 (Spirit of 46) party, which broke from Mahathir's UMNO, won only seven of the 12 parliamentary seats it held previously. Its deputy leader, Rais Yatim, lost to a relative unknown.

Analysts said the opposition's failure to make significant gains in the parliamentary polls showed that Razaleigh had far less support among politically dominant Malays than he thought.

"Semangat's goals, including denying Mahathir the two-thirds majority, have failed," political scientist Murgesa Pathmanathan said. "It speaks well of the faith the people have in the ruling coalition."

"The economy also has a part to play," one analyst said. The swing to opposition among ethnic Chinese did not come as strongly as expected because of the booming economy.

"The Malays were confused over Razaleigh's ambitions," the analyst said. "The best thing they did was to go back to where they stood before."

There was some comfort for Razaleigh in his home state of Kelantan where the opposition took all 13 parliamentary seats, ousted Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithanddeen, Deputy Agriculture Minister Mohamed Kassim Ahmad and state Chief Minister Mohammad Yusoff, and won all 39 state assembly seats.

Other government casualties were Science, Technology and Environment Minister Stephen Yong, Deputy Works Minister Lohat Wan, both from Sarawak, and the Chief Minister of Penang, Lim Chong En, who was toppled after 21 years in office by Democratic Action Party leader Lim Kit Siang.

Another opposition success was in the Borneo state of Sabah where the Bersatu Sabah Party (PBS), consisting mostly of Roman Catholic Kadazan tribespeople, won 14 of 20 parliamentary seats. It defected from



Mahathir Mohammad

Mahathir's coalition last week.

Razaleigh is a prince of the Kelantan royal family and the state is a fundamentalist Muslim stronghold.

The clean sweep of Kelantan by the opposition Muslim parties of Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS), Razaleigh's Semangat 46 (Spirit of 46) and Berjasa ended a 12-year reign by Mahathir's coalition in Kelantan.

"We lost not because of (government) policies but because of the 'parochialism' prevalent in Kelantan," Mahathir said.

About eight million of Malaysia's 17.4 million population were eligible to vote in the polls which were monitored by a Commonwealth observer group.

Filipino gunmen kill labour leader

MANTILA (R) — Gunmen killed a moderate Philippine labour leader Monday and Communist hit-squads said they would not allow anyone to interfere with a general strike called for Wednesday.

Four gunmen armed with 45 calibre pistols burst into the office of Oscar Lazaro, 53, head of one of the largest transport unions, while he and four others were having lunch, police and witnesses said.

After ordering all in the room to lie face down on the floor, they took money and valuables before shooting Lazaro and fleeing.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killing but the 45 is the favoured weapon of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) which have killed several hundred people since President Corason Aquino came to power in 1986.

The hit-squad headquarters issued a statement supporting the general strike being organised by left-wing unions.

The Communist organisation said it would "mobilise all its forces and its wide networks of mass support to ensure that the people's insurrectionary spirit will not be hindered by scabs and saboteurs."

Another labour leader, Adriano Yumul, head of a small Dock Union, was stabbed to death Monday. Police said they were still investigating the circumstances.

The unions calling the strike want a 38 peso (\$1.50) rise in the basic daily wage. They also want a halt to further oil price rises and subsidies for basic commodities.

Organisers said Monday that 3.5 million workers around the country would join the strike but they gave the government until Tuesday to offer a compromise.

The government's wage board will meet again Tuesday to try to head off the strike, officials said.

Lazaro's union is part of the Trade Union Congress, a large moderate group that wants more negotiations with the government before a strike.

Last month when left-wing unions called a general strike, Trade Union Congress-affiliated unions did not take part and it did not attract wide support.

Most government workers who had said they would start a work action Monday stayed on the job, according to government offices and police. One government worker's union official said they would wait for the general action Wednesday.

President Corason Aquino appealed to workers in a radio address Sunday to consider the future of their country and their companies.

"For short-term gains, please do not endanger the very existence of your employer firms by asking for unrealistic wage increases," he said.

Meanwhile, military rebels

claim they are forming links with Communists and other disaffected groups for a "big bang" against President Corason Aquino before her term ends in 1992.

Renegade Maj. Abraham Purugganan made the claim during a clandestine interview with Filipino reporters last Saturday.

By agreement among the reporters and Purugganan, the interview was not made public until Monday.

Purugganan, sought after a coup attempt last December, said a new coalition, the Democratic Front for Filipinos, would seek to launch a "nationalist revolution" to oust Mrs. Aquino and a new government.

"We will be definitely moving fast before 1992," Purugganan said. "We will just have one big bang."

Purugganan said the new alliance was formed on Oct. 17 during a secret conclave, in which a civilian with the alias of Felix Servando was named chairman.

The alliance includes the Young Officers Union, a shadowy military faction linked to the December coup attempt, as well as members of various Communist organisations.

Mrs. Aquino has survived seven military revolts since she took power in the February 1986 "people power revolution" that toppled the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Nepal king makes big changes in constitution

KATHMANDU (R) — King Birendra has shaken Nepal's new democratic government by substantially changing a draft constitution designed to formalise his transition from absolute to constitutional monarchy.

Senior political sources said Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai had called a meeting of his 11-member cabinet Monday to discuss the crisis.

They said the palace had altered the wording of the draft in a way that gave King Birendra, who has to approve the final version, substantial powers the original was designed to take away.

The sources said Bhattarai had sent a message to one of the king's secretaries saying he might be compelled to resign if the palace insisted on the changes.

They said at least two cabinet ministers were seriously contemplating resignation over the palace draft, which was given back to the government 10 days after it was sent to the king.

The latest of several deadlines for announcing the final draft is Wednesday and the sources said a majority in the cabinet was furious at what they saw as a palace plot to delay promulgation of the constitution.

"Delays in promulgation of the constitution on some pretext or other have created an atmosphere of uncertainty and suspicion," Bhattarai told a Kathmandu rally Friday.

"We were fighting for democracy from outside the government. Now we're doing so from within the government itself."

Bhattarai's government came to power in May after pro-democracy demonstrators took over the streets of Kathmandu and brought down the king's government.

Birendra promised he would yield the absolute powers wielded by the throne and become a constitutional monarch.

Colombo troops capture northern port

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops captured strategic port town in the Jaffna peninsula from Tamil rebels, linking an isolated army outpost to a military airstrip, officials said Monday.

It was the latest advance claimed by the government in a six-day-old offensive on the northern peninsula, which is mostly controlled by rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The officials said one soldier

was killed and 19 wounded Sunday when troops fought their way into Kankesanthurai, a coastal town six kilometres northwest of Palali Airport.

The military has maintained a camp near the town which has been under rocket and mortar fire since the rebels broke a 13-month ceasefire in June.

"The rebels, after initial resistance, withdrew from the state-owned Kankesanthurai Cement Factory, where they have been using the machinery to turn out

mines," said one official on condition of anonymity.

The bodies of six rebels and 15 sacks of mines were recovered by troops, said the officials.

The government offensive was launched Wednesday, a day after the state radio announced an indefinite curfew in the northern districts of Jaffna and Kilinochchi.

In their initial push, forces advanced south of the airstrip and captured a number of villages and towns.

Pakistan polls to be fought on single issue of Benazir Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (R) — When Pakistan's 48 million voters go to the polls Wednesday there will only be one issue at stake — Benazir Bhutto.

Thrown out of office on charges of corruption and vilified as a "looter and plunderer" of the nation's wealth, Bhutto's foes say Pakistan cannot afford her return to power.

"She certainly is the main issue. Is there any doubt about it?" Caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said last week. Political programmes have been almost totally ignored.

Before the last elections two years ago, Bhutto was compared by adoring crowds to the rising sun — "Benazir our hope, our faith." This time round the chant is "Benazir is innocent."

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan accused Bhutto of presiding over massive corruption, nepotism and abuse of power when he sacked her on Aug. 6 and ordered new elections on Oct. 24.

Declaring himself determined to clean up Pakistan's public life, he set up special courts to hear charges of abuse of power against Bhutto and several of her ministers.

The legal spotlight was also turned on Bhutto's businessman husband, Asif Ali Zardari, arrested on Oct. 10 in connection with cases involving extortion and

illegal bank loans.

Bhutto denounced the "accountability" process as a witch hunt against her and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Nawaz Sharif, leader of the anti-Bhutto Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), sees it differently.

"It is a fight between two election alliances — one standing for unity, well-being and Islamisation and the other for secularism, disunity, goondaism (strongman tactics), loot and plunder," he told a Rawalpindi rally at the weekend.

Had the election taken place on Aug. 7, few people doubt that Bhutto would have lost to the IDA, her popularity tarnished by accusations of incompetence and corruption during her 20 months in office.

But Bhutto, the Western-educated daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, fought back in the way she knows best — as the underdog.

Bhutto effectively used the persecution she suffered in the 11 years after her father was deposed by General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq in 1977 to win power in 1988.

First she accused the military.

Pakistan's rulers for more than half its history, of being behind the "constitutional coup d'état."

Then she turned her venom on the 75-year-old president, calling him a stubborn old man who would have to go if she was re-elected.

Ishaq Khan nominated Bhutto as prime minister in 1988 after her Pakistan People's Party won 93 seats in the 217-seat National Assembly, making it the single largest minority party.

This time, the PPP could again end up as the largest party, but the IDA says it is confident that with the help of regional allies in Sind, Baluchistan and North-West Frontier provinces it will have a working majority.

All sides agree that elections to the 217-seat National Assembly will be won or lost in Punjab, Pakistan's most powerful and populous province and Sharif's political heartland.

Intelligence estimates leaked by the caretaker government give the PPP about 75 seats, the IDA a few more and the rest split between the regional parties and independents.

"Things are better than expected. I have always been confident but I think that the last four days have gone very well," a senior government source said.

S. African black township mayor quits

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — A township mayor, who was one of South Africa's longest-serving black municipal leaders, resigned and urged other black councillors to do the same, citing dissatisfaction with the national government.

Tom Boya, who was mayor of Daveyton Township for 10 years, quit unexpectedly Sunday during a rally at the township east of Johannesburg.

He also announced he was resigning as head of the United Municipalities of South Africa, an organisation of local black councils.

Many township residents oppose the idea of local black councils, saying blacks should work to end apartheid through non-governmental organisations such as the African National Congress (ANC). Like many black municipal leaders, Boya had been under pressure to resign.

"This was the wish of the people. They wished me to resign from the local authority structure, and I've decided to do so," Boya said.

He accused the government of not meeting township needs and said other black councillors should also step down.

At the same rally, Boya's deputy mayor and two local councillors also announced they were quitting.

Meanwhile President F.W. de Klerk left South Africa Monday on a trip focusing on the Netherlands, ancestral homeland of his Afrikaner people, in a further sign that his political reforms have given him international stature.

De Klerk, who began to dismantle apartheid after he was elected president in September last year, will discuss his plans to end white minority rule and plead for an easing of sanctions.

The Netherlands, one of the harshest critics of apartheid, was among the first countries to impose economic and cultural sanctions against Pretoria.

Mandela in Australia

Meanwhile Nelson Mandela was received as an honoured guest by the Australian government Monday but some aborigines were less friendly.

Mandela arrived for a five-day stay in Australia after visiting India and Indonesia, which supplied a presidential jet for the flight to Darwin.

The move by Kenya followed a row with Olo over dissident politician Koigi Wa Wamwere who was charged with treason after mysteriously returning from exile in Norway.

On Saturday, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi attacked Norway for expressing concern

Delhi suspends takeover of disputed temple site

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The government backed away from its compromise aimed at solving a Hindu-Muslim dispute that has claimed scores of lives and threatens to bring down the government, newspapers reported Monday.

With the compromise rejected by both Hindu and Muslim groups, Prime Minister V.P. Singh and senior cabinet ministers shelved plans to take over property surrounding a shrine claimed by both religions, the Hindustan Times and other major dailies said.

Government meetings on the dispute have been taking place daily and federal officials were expected to do meet Monday with chief ministers from all Indian states.

The dispute centres on a 16th-century mosque in the Hindu holy town of Ayodhya, a dusty town in the remote north Indian plains revered by Hindus as the birthplace of the God Rama.

Fundamentalist Hindus say the mosque, called the Babri Masjid, was built by Muslim conquerors on the foundations of an ancient Hindu temple. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the Hindu World Council, has vowed to start rebuilding the temple on Oct. 30.

Muslim activists, led by the Babri Masjid Action Committee, have vowed to thwart the temple construction, since the planned office would supplant the existing mosque.

Last Friday, to try to avoid confrontation until a lasting solution can be found, Singh's government obtained a presidential ordinance acquiring disputed lands surrounding the mosque. The idea was to preserve the mosque while the Indian Supreme Court

tried to reach a speedy resolution of legal cases that have been bogged down for decades in local courts.

That idea was doomed when the Hindu World Council and the Babri Masjid Action Committee independently and emphatically rejected the government's plan.

The controversy over the shrine in Ayodhya, 500 kilometres east of New Delhi, has deep political implications for Singh and his minority coalition government.

To forge a workable alliance against former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, Singh needed support from both extremes of the country's political spectrum: The Communists and the Hindu right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, or Indian People's Party.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has threatened to withdraw its support if the government prevents construction of a new temple to Lord Rama on the spot currently occupied by the mosque.

The party's leader, Lal Krishna Advani, is leading a caravan of supporters through northern India's Hindu heartland to demonstrate and heighten popular demand for the temple project.

Although the region is predominantly Hindu, there are many Muslim villages along the way and towns with large Muslim populations.

Earlier this month, more than 80 people died in Hindu-Muslim riots precipitated across India by the religious showdown. Hindus comprise 82 per cent of India's 880 million people, while Muslims make up 12 per cent.

Advani is scheduled to reach Uttar Pradesh, the state where Ayodhya is located, Wednesday.

Greek conservatives seal win in run-off local polls

ATHENS (R) — Greece's ruling conservatives retained the country's second largest city in run-off local elections Sunday and said there was clear public support for their austerity policy.

Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis hailed the results as more positive than expected and a confirmation of the Greek people's confidence in his government.

"Supported by public approval the government will continue its effort for the recovery of our country and our ailing economy in particular," he said in a televised news conference.

In their latest victory, the conservatives narrowly took the northern port Salomika, Greece's

second largest city. Last Sunday their candidate thwarted Socialist actress Melina Mercouri in her bid to be mayor of Athens.

In the close race for Salonika, conservative-backed Dinos Koompanos won 50.9 per cent of the vote and left-wing Dimitris Fatouris 49.01 per cent.

Run-off elections took place in 142 municipalities where candidates failed last week to win over 50 per cent of the vote, required to become mayor.

Official results came out a day later but Mitsotakis claimed the second round of elections proved more successful for his New Democracy Party than the first, in which it won 35 out of 43 municipalities that changed hands.

Kenya severs relations with Norway

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya said Monday it was breaking off diplomatic relations with Norway following an increasingly bitter row over the activities of Kenyan dissidents based there.

A statement from the Kenyan Foreign Ministry accused Norway of being an accessory to illegal activities carried out by what it called fugitives.

The Norwegian ambassador was given seven days to close down his embassy and leave the country.

The move by Kenya followed a row with Olo over dissident politician Koigi Wa Wamwere who was charged with treason after mysteriously returning from exile in Norway.

On Saturday, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi attacked Norway for expressing concern

over Wamwere.

The statement signed by Foreign Minister Wilson Ndolo Ayah accused the Norwegian government of taking a hostile attitude towards Kenya for some time.

"Recent events have demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that the government of Norway has been an accessory to illegal activities by those Kenyan fugitives bent on undermining the stability of the country and its constitutionally elected government," it said.

Wamwere, a former member of parliament, and three others were charged Friday after being arrested for planning an armed campaign to destabilise the government.

Wamwere fled to Norway in 1986 and founded a clandestine opposition group called the Kenyan Patriotic Front.

Norway protested to Kenya Thursday over the arrest of Wamwere, who was granted political refugee status by Norway, and asked a United Nations human rights group to investigate his case.

Kenya has angrily rejected accusations from exiled Kenyans in Sweden that Wamwere was abducted and brought home by government agents.

In Oslo, the Foreign Ministry called a meeting to discuss the move.

"There is... currently a meeting at the highest political level and there will be a statement covering both the political and aid aspects," said Svein Tonnas, a spokesman at the aid section of the Foreign Ministry.

Kenya has no embassy in Norway.

Russian groups form largest opposition movement

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 30 Russian groups have united to form the nation's largest political bloc opposing the Communist Party, and the new movement demanded that Kremlin leaders resign.

National legislators and key officials of the Russian Republic attended the two-day founding conference of the Democratic Russia Movement, the broadest grouping yet to openly challenge President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

But the conference glossed over sharply divergent views among the republic's various groups, and gave them the right to pull out of the movement. The movement's chances of becoming a unified political force were uncertain.

Many small parties have been created since the Communist Party surrendered its constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power last February. None, including the new bloc, have anywhere near the Communists' 13 million members.

The new movement joined Christian Democrats with labour unions, scholars with peasants, and Red Army officers with disabled veterans. They united around a broad platform that called for Russian sovereignty as

well as the resignation of Gorbachev and his prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov.

The platform underlined growing disenchantment with the Soviet leader.

The conference also formed a commission to organise "civil disobedience" if necessary. It was not clear under what conditions civil disobedience would be used.

It delegated another commission to find ways to create a market economy in Russia, the largest and most populous of the 15 Soviet republics.

A fledgling coalition between Gorbachev and Boris N. Yeltsin, the reformist president of the Russian Republic, fell apart after the Soviet president balked at the radical economic programme backed by Yeltsin.

"Gorbachev finally showed that he has moved to the right" by rejecting radical economic reforms last week, prominent legislator Yuri Boldyrev told the 1,272 delegates. They met in a central Moscow movie theatre.

After his speech, delegates voted by a show of hands to approve a draft declaration forming the Democratic Russia Movement, then applauded for nearly a minute in a standing ovation.

The draft also "guarantees the independence of every associated member... in choosing his strategy and tactics."

The final version will be published next week in the movement's newspaper, said Oleg Rumyantsev, leader of the Social Democratic Party of Russia and member of the new Coordinating Council.

Following Sunday's vote, the celebratory air in the hall subsided and officials proposed several supplementary planks and dozens of minor resolutions.

In an indication of disagreements to come, several delegates demanded that the initial call only for Ryzhkov's resignation be expanded to include Gorbachev.

Others from the floor applauded the suggestion.

"But we have no union, so what does it matter whether the president resigns?" an official retorted. A delegate echoed, "Why demand either resign? Just create a market economy and the government will fall anyway."

The delegates changed the wording to include Gorbachev, and the resolution passed by a large majority.

Cooperation among the various groups was not assured.

In a survey of 628 delegates taken Saturday by the independent firm "Monitoring," nearly a quarter said they would not support their own party, while 57 per cent said they would seek a compromise position.

The poll gave no margin of error.

In a poll of support for leaders, Yeltsin was far the most popular with 89 per cent, followed by Leningrad Mayor Anatoly Sobchak with 55 per cent. Gorbachev received only 8 per cent support.

The poll concluded that delegates were united mainly in their opposition to the Communist Party and in their support for Yeltsin.

COLUMN

Henry V named best film

LONDON (AP) — Kenneth Branagh's version of Shakespeare's Henry V was named the year's best film by the British Film Institute. Dame Judi Dench presented the award to the film's producer, Stephen Evans. The film also won the technical achievement award, which was presented to Evans, Ray Harryman and actor Brian Blessed.

Branagh, who directed the film and performed the title role, was working in California, but telephoned his congratulations. Stars attending the ceremony at the National Film Theatre included Joan Collins, Robert Wagner, Dame Wendy Hiller, Terence Stamp, Stefanie Powers and Twiggy. There was a special award to Hollywood director Fred Zinneman, who became a fellow of the British Film Institute for his contribution to the movie industry.

Americans admire rich people and want to join them, even though they feel the wealthy are more likely to be dishonest, mobbish, uncharitable and racist, a new survey shows. According to the survey, released Sunday, 55 per cent of Americans respect and admire the wealthy, while 58 per cent want to be rich and 77 per cent think they will be rich some day. Rich people are viewed as intelligent, industrious, well-educated and even better looking than poorer folks, said the survey. But 66 per cent of those polled said they think rich people tend to be dishonest, 78 per cent think they are snobs, 74 per cent think they tend to be uncharitable and 55 per cent think they are more likely than most to be racists.

Tiger bites off boy's finger

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — A Bengal tiger bit off the finger of an 11-year-old boy attending a small circus in this northern Mexican city, officials said. Maria de Los Gueros Quin